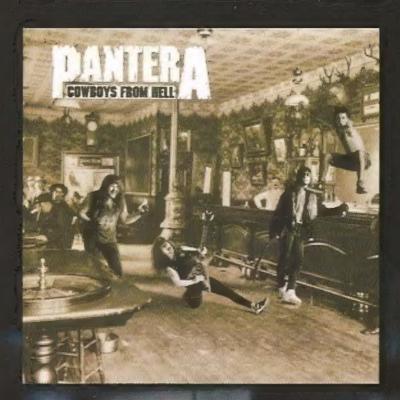
AUTHENTIC GUITAR TAB EDITION

COWBOYS FROM HELL







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COWBOYS FROM HELL

When Atco Records unleashed Pantera's aptly named *Cowboys from Hell* album on the unsuspecting metal-loving public in 1990, it may have been the band's major label debut, but it certainly wasn't their first release. In fact, the Texan outfit had released no fewer than four albums prior to this one—all on their own label. That said, *Cowboys from Hell* was the first opportunity the world at large got to hear the band and also the first one that featured the fearsome, metallic beast into which Pantera had evolved.

From the hypnotically catchy yet, heavy, opening riff of the album's title track, to the explosive finale of the aptly named "The Art of Shredding," it was immediately obvious that Pantera was no ordinary band and their guitarist—then going by the handle "Diamond Darrell"—was no run-of-the-mill metal guitarist. Both were clearly destined for greatness, and it didn't take long for that prophecy to come to pass. By the mid-'90s, Pantera were rightly being hailed as the greatest metal band of their generation, and Dimebag Darrell (yep, his nickname evolved!) was rightfully considered by many as being the most significant and influential metal guitarist to have emerged since Edward Van Halen—a player who had a profound influence on Dime. "His raw spontaneity always lights me up," Dime once told me. "He made me look at the instrument in a different way, man. He made me look at it as a tool you can screw around with rather than something you should always play very carefully and precisely. He proved technical playing can still be aggressive."

Cowboys from Hell is packed full of the unique mix of musical skills and ingredients that made both the band and their axeman world famous, and also caused them to have a profound influence on all who followed in their trail-blazing wake—and, if truth be told (and admitted!) on many that went before them too. Let's take a quick look at some of them...

Rhythm 'n' Bruise

Cowboys from Hell is a testament to the importance of having great riffs, great arrangements, and killer rhythm chops. It is also proof perfect of the incredibly tight, subconscious rhythmic bond that existed between Dime and his brother Vinnie Paul, Pantera's drummer extraordinaire. "Well balanced players rip on rhythm as well as lead," Dime attests. "As far as I'm concerned, it's no good being able to wail out smokin' leads if your rhythm chops hug! [Note: "hug" is Dimebonics for "suck" or "stink"!] I've been into rhythm playing since day one, and a lot of that has to do with having a brother who kicks ass on drums. I grew up jamming with Vinnie, and he definitely taught me the importance of timing and playing tight—and that, along with some great chops, is what rhythm playing is all about."

Of course, great rhythm chops without great riffs are of no value—enter Dime the riff writer from hell. "Like another of his idols, Black Sabbath's Tony Iommi, Dime had the ability to pen riffs that were heavy, memorable, and, dare I say it, melodic, albeit in a twisted sense! From the infectious E minor blues scale riff that is "Cowboys from Hell" (Figure 1) to the disturbing, chromatic descent that opens "Message in Blood," (Figure 2) Dime's riffs are instantly unforgettable.

Figure 1



Figure 2



His use of major and minor diads (two-note chords) is also inspired. The verse riff of "The Sleep" (Figure 3) and the pre-chorus of "Message in Blood" are both great examples of this trait in action.

Figure 3



Perhaps Dime's most brilliant rhythm playing gift, though, was his innate ability to make a motif based on a single note both memorable and immediately recognizable. The syncopated, single-note intro riff to "Psycho Holiday" (Figure 4) is a great example of this trait in action—creating a hypnotic rhythmic pulse.

Figure 4



"A lot of Pantera's riffs are tight-assed power grooves like this," he once told me. "In a way, I'm kind of a percussionist when it comes to picking, because a lot of my rhythmic patterns are almost drum patterns...like the beginning of "Psycho Holiday." Only one note (F) is being hit but, you know exactly what the song is thanks to the rhythmic pattern being pounded out."

The Art of Shredding

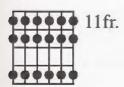
This entire book could easily be dedicated to the dissection of Dime's lead-playing brilliance! While processing the chops to blaze at the speed of light, like many of his heroes—including Edward Van Halen, Randy Rhoads, Ace Frehley, and Billy Gibbons—Dime instinctively knew when to slow it down and let a handful of well-chosen, well-placed notes do the talking. His restrained, yet remarkably musical openings to his solos in "Cowboys from Hell" and "Cemetary Gates" illustrate this ability to the tee. "I hate guys who play fast leads all the time just because they can," Dime once remarked. "C'mon, slow down and play some notes that count, dude. Hell, I'll take one note over a million any day! Play that one note with heart, feel, and guts, and then let that sucker sing, just like Billy Gibbons does. Hey, don't get me wrong, I love wailing out leads as much as the next guy BUT only if it complements the track. To me, playing what works best for the song is much more impressive than trying to impress other guitarists by jerking off all over the neck or showing off your new three-handed guitar technique. Tone and feel are much more important."

When Dime feels the time is right to shred though, boy, does he, and "Cowboys from Hell" is a great showcase of his remarkable abilities in this area. His use of wide stretches and legato (hammer-ons and pull-offs) to create lightning-fast runs while flowing like fluid is world class, as is his note choice, deft use of pinch-harmonics, and superbly controlled, emotive employment of wide bends and vibrato. The inspiration for the wide, fretboard-hand stretches he often does came from Eddie Van Halen: "I kept seeing pictures in Guitar World of him doing big-assed, left-hand finger stretches, and that inspired me to start dicking around with wide-stretch ideas of my own. Another thing I learned from studying those pictures was the importance of my little finger. It's there, so use it—it definitely gives you more reach."

Another trademark Van Halen trait Dime uses to great effect are symmetrical runs, namely employing the same exact fingering pattern on each string during a run. Figure 5, a run similar to one used near the start of his "Cowboys from Hell" solo, is a perfect illustration of this idea in action. Figure 6 shows a fretboard diagram of the symmetrical fingering used in this lick.



Figure 6



I'll let Dime explain how he came up with the above: "How I came up with this ascending passage was real simple. I was messing around with a wide-stretch lick on the low E string [marked as "initial lick" in Figure 5] and figured, hey, let's see what happens if I take this pattern right across the neck and end on the high E string. I tried it, it sounded cool as shit, and so I used it in my 'Cowboys...' lead. I have absolutely no clue what's happening scale-wise—to me it's just a ripping E minor run that works. I'm into futzing around with symmetrical runs in a major way."

Harmonic Screams

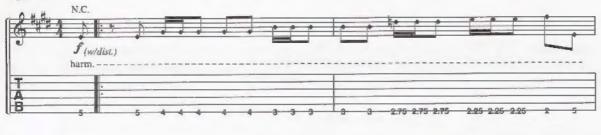
Perhaps one of Dime's most celebrated techniques is his penchant for using his whammy bar to make natural harmonics literally scream. The first time most of the world heard this was at the end of "Cemetary Gates," where Dime used this technique to duplicate vocalist Phil Anselmo's emotional screams with uncanny accuracy. How does he do this? Once again, I'll let Dime explain: "I stumbled upon harmonic squeals when I was dicking around one day. A lot of people think I use a harmonizer or a [Digitech] Whammy pedal to do them, but I don't: all I use is my bar and some natural harmonics. To make a harmonic scream, I first dump my Floyd Rose [locking whammy bar system] real quick, hit a harmonic with my left hand while the string is still flapping, and then use the bar to pull it up to the pitch I want. If this sounds complex to you, don't skitz...it's actually a pretty simple thing to do once you've got the technique down. Here's the idea broken down into four easy steps:

- Step 1: Flick the string you want to hit the harmonic on with your left (fretboard) hand.
- Step 2: Dump the bar down.
- Step 3: Lightly tap the harmonic you want with a left-hand finger.
- Step 4: Let the whammy bar come back up real smoothly—so the harmonic squeals like a pig!"

This said, to make matters a little more complex...

1. Dime often does this with those hard-to-hit harmonics that reside between the frets—like the one that can be found about ¼ of the way between the second and third frets on the G string. It's hard to find and needs a lot of distortion to coax out, but when you catch it right, boy does it squeal beautifully! A perfect way to get used to locating those "in-between the frets" harmonics is to master the intro to "Heresy" (Figure 7), which is 100 percent constructed from natural harmonics and includes two of those hard-to-hit ones.







2. Dime often pulls harmonics past their regular pitch—a move that requires fine control over the whammy bar and also calls on you to use your ears as well as your hands to hit the note(s) you're aiming for. To help control this with precision, here's what Darrell does: "I've found that with the bar aiming towards the back of the guitar [Photo A], I can more accurately get to the note I'm aiming for because I have to push the bar down to get there—think about it! But whenever I'm aiming for a gut-wrenching squeal, I go for it with the bar facing the front [Photo B]. There's a different feel to both, so experiment and find which works best for you. Backward or forward? The choice is yours."

Photo A



Photo B

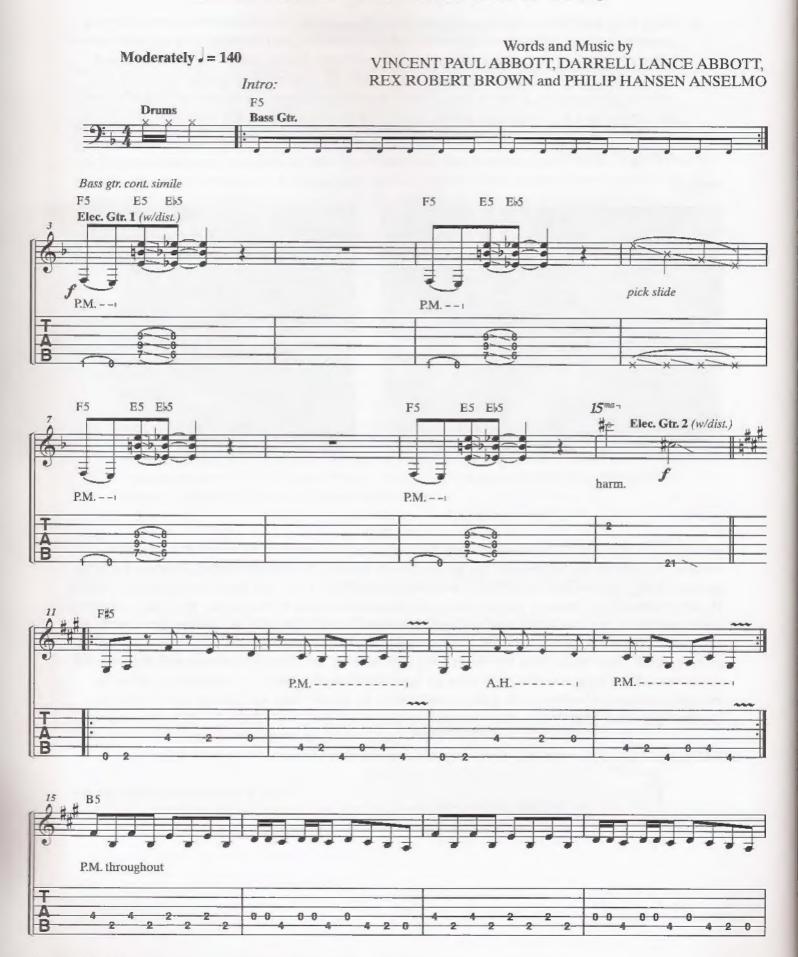


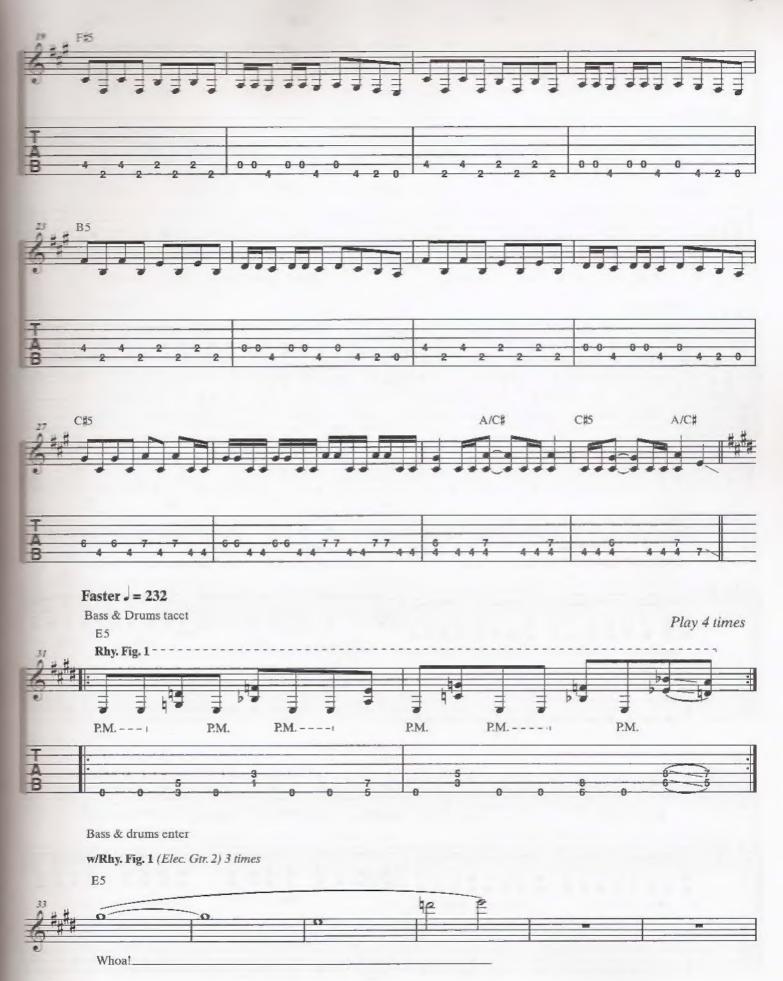
The book you are holding was painstakingly and meticulously transcribed by one of the industry's finest and most respective purveyors of this art—Danny Begelman. That said, guitar playing is a deeply personal thing, and the interpretation of another player's work is, and will always be subjective—unless the artist whose work is under the microscope is intimately involved in the process. And, as we all know, sadly that wasn't possible in this case, as Dime is regrettably no longer with us...I know for a fact that if he was, though, he would've poured over every single note! So, while Danny's incredible work serves as the ultimate road map, if you hear something differently or feel more comfortable playing the same notes in a different place on the neck, then go for it! As Dime once said, "...remember, it's all good, everything goes and there ain't no rules or boundaries. So get off! Tear it a new ass, tear it hard, rip gaping holes in it! Make tracks, leave marks!"

R.I.P. Dime. Your music, mayhem, mirth, memory and inspiration live on...and always will.

Nick "Hitchcock" Bowcott, July 2007

THE ART OF SHREDDING













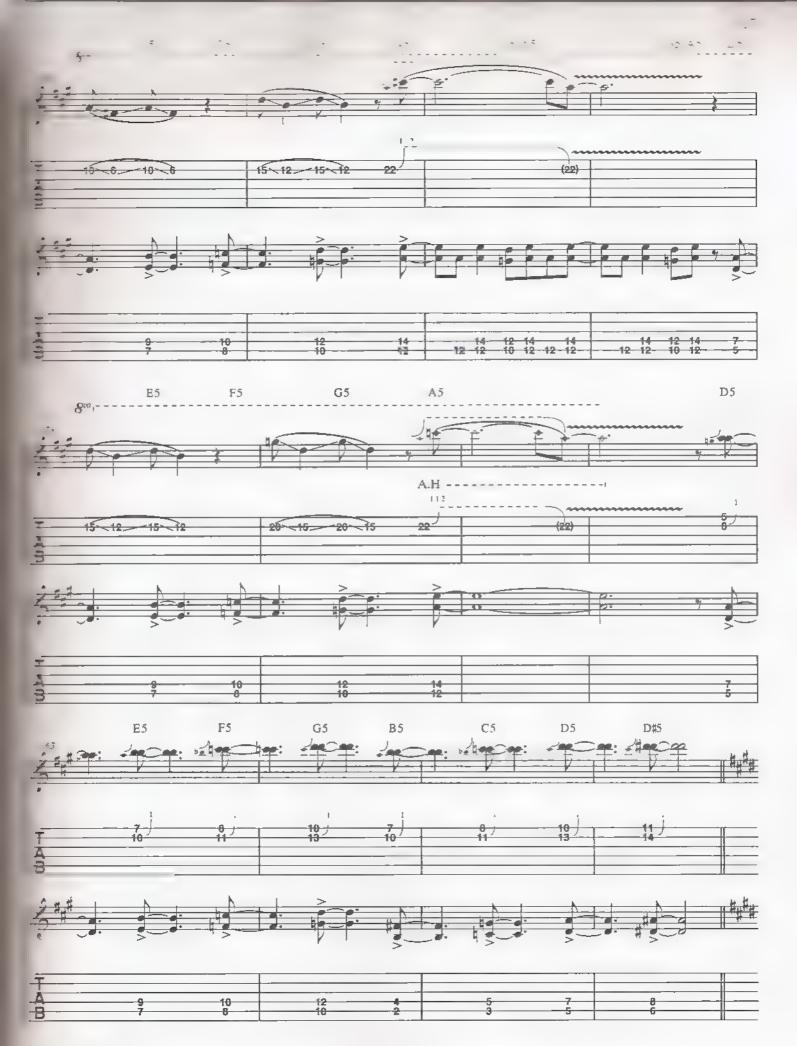






The Art of Shredding 11 8 25955





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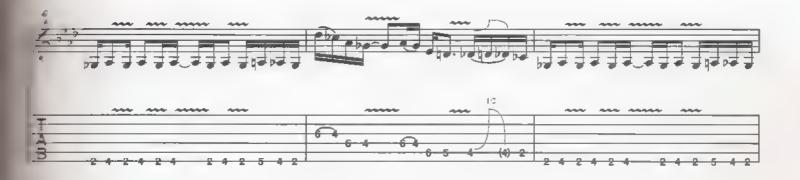


CLASH WITH REALITY

Moderately = 86

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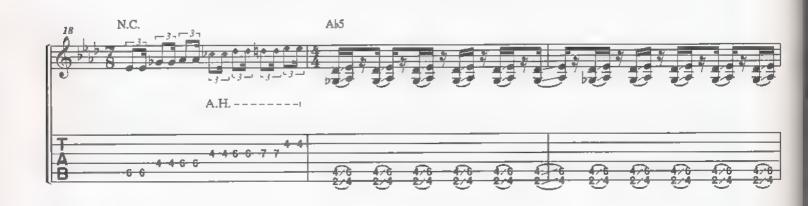
Drums play dbl.-time feel





Drums end dbl.-time feel



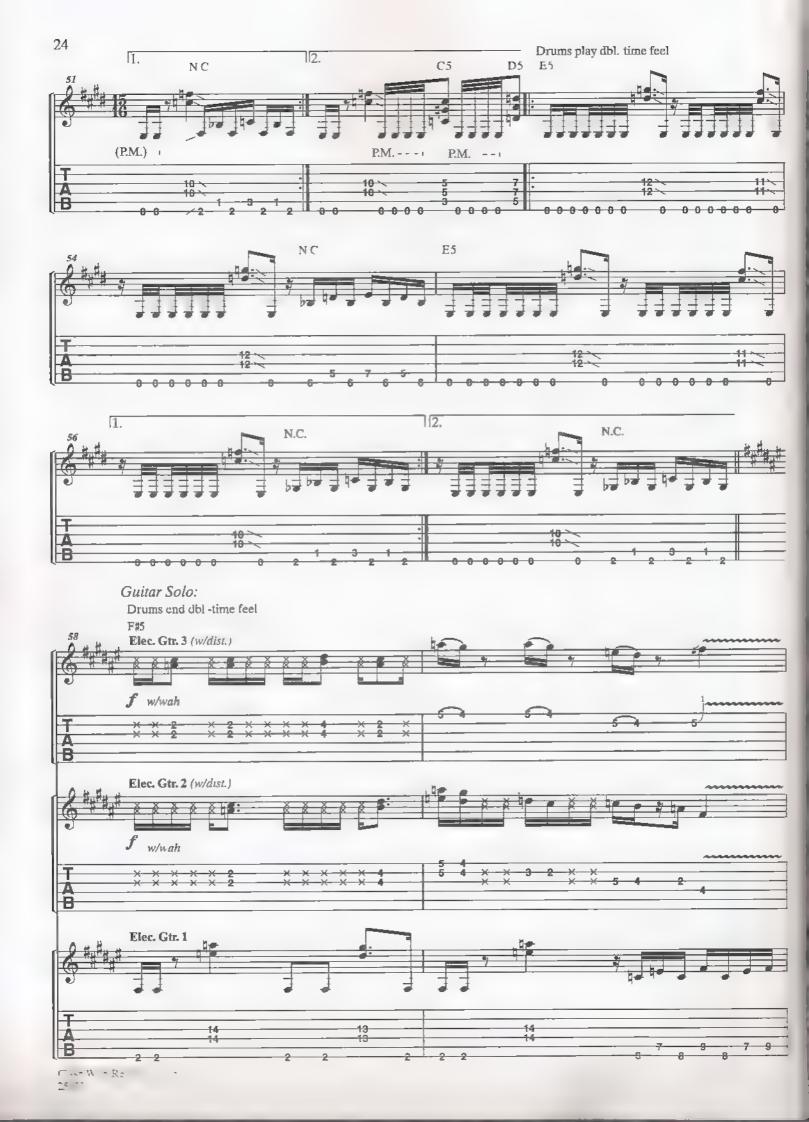






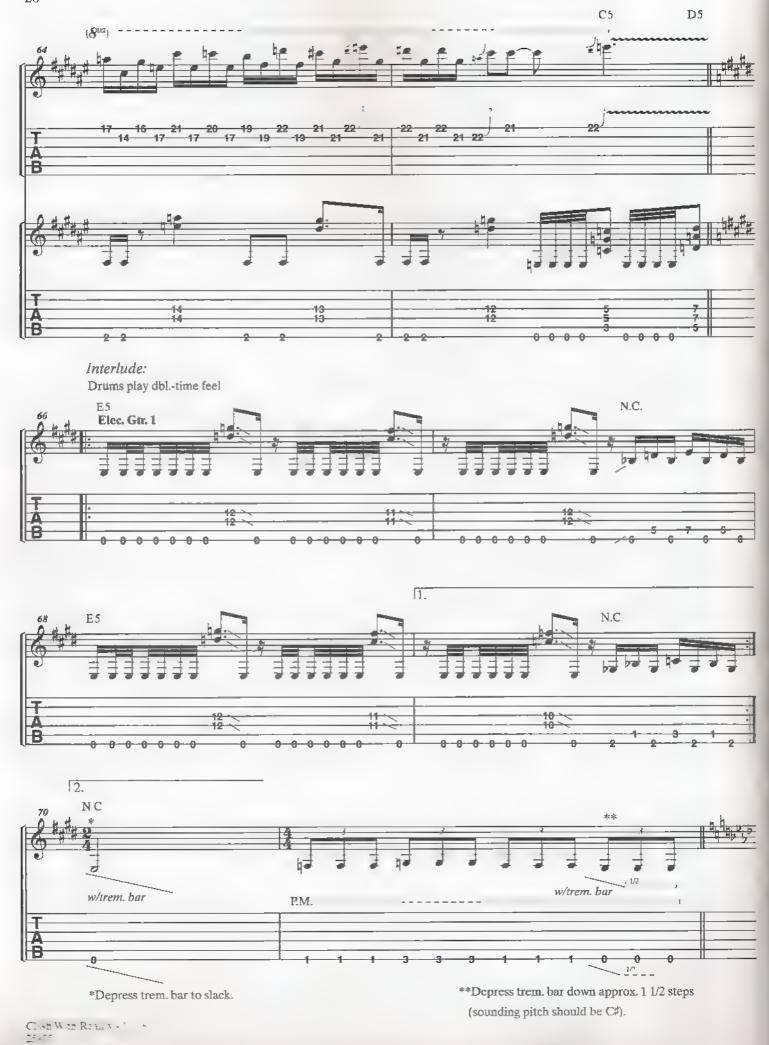






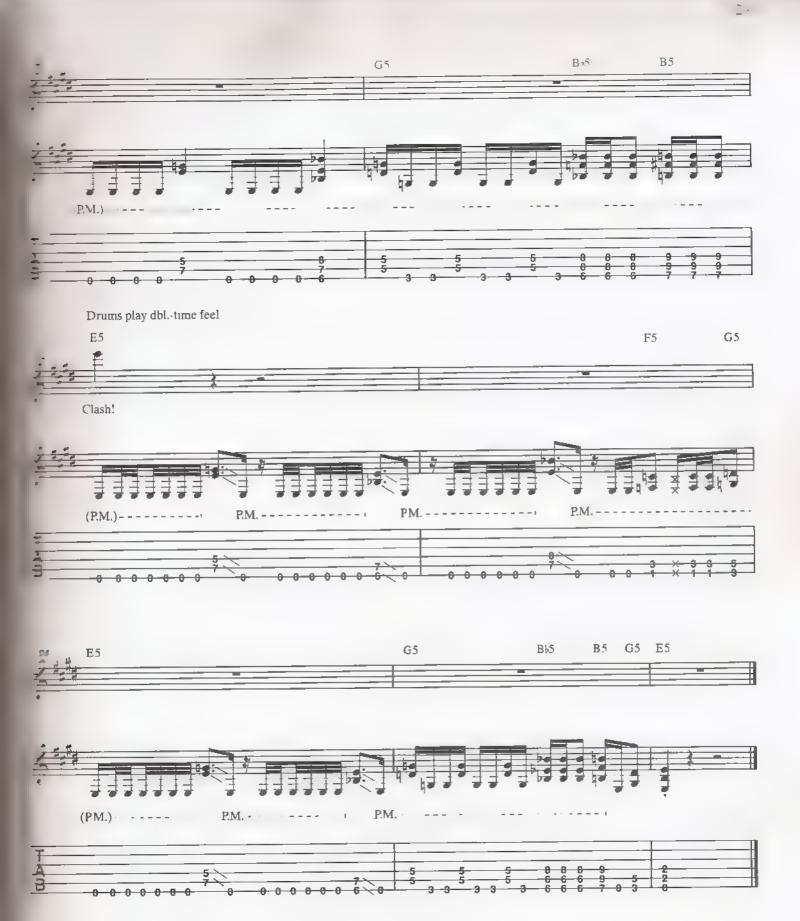










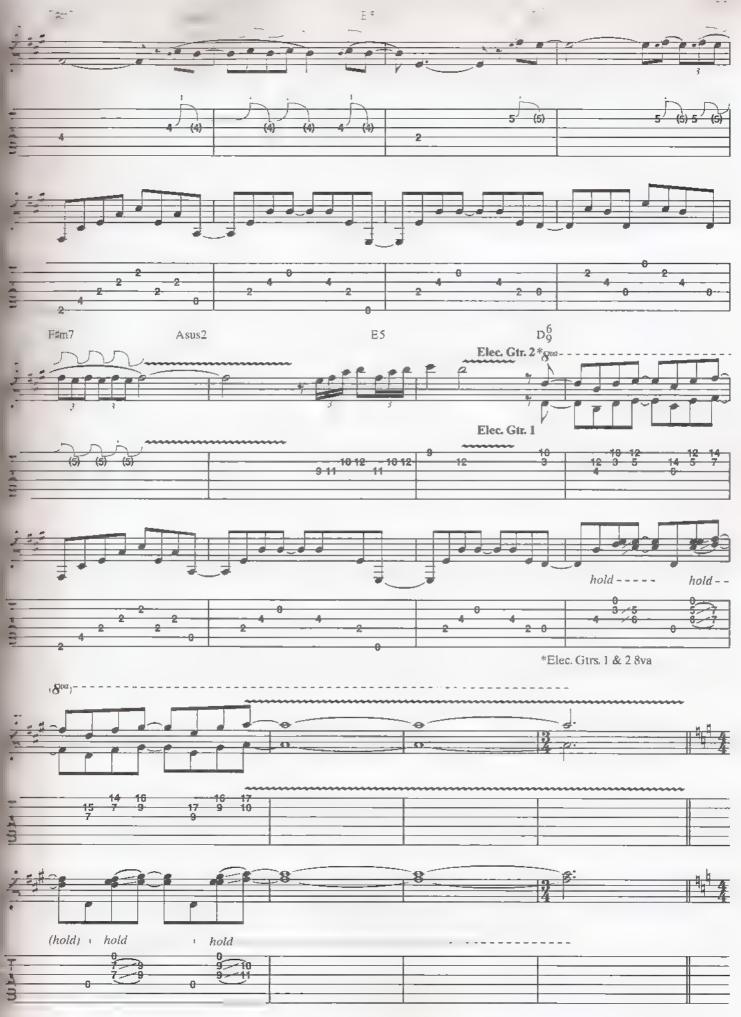


CEMETERY GATES



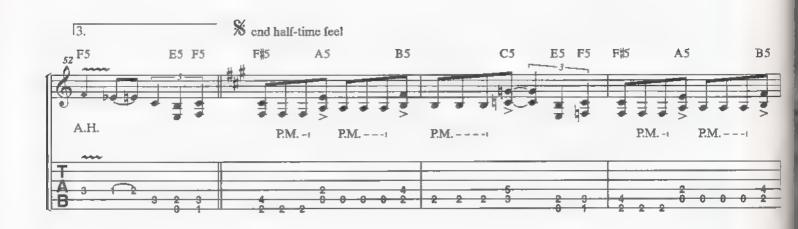


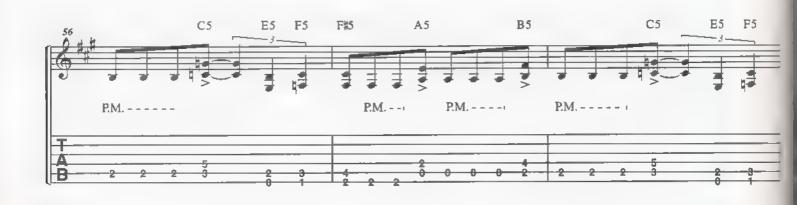


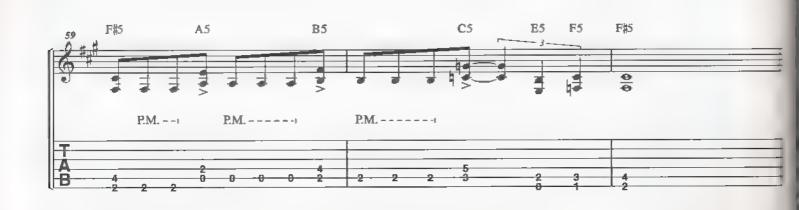


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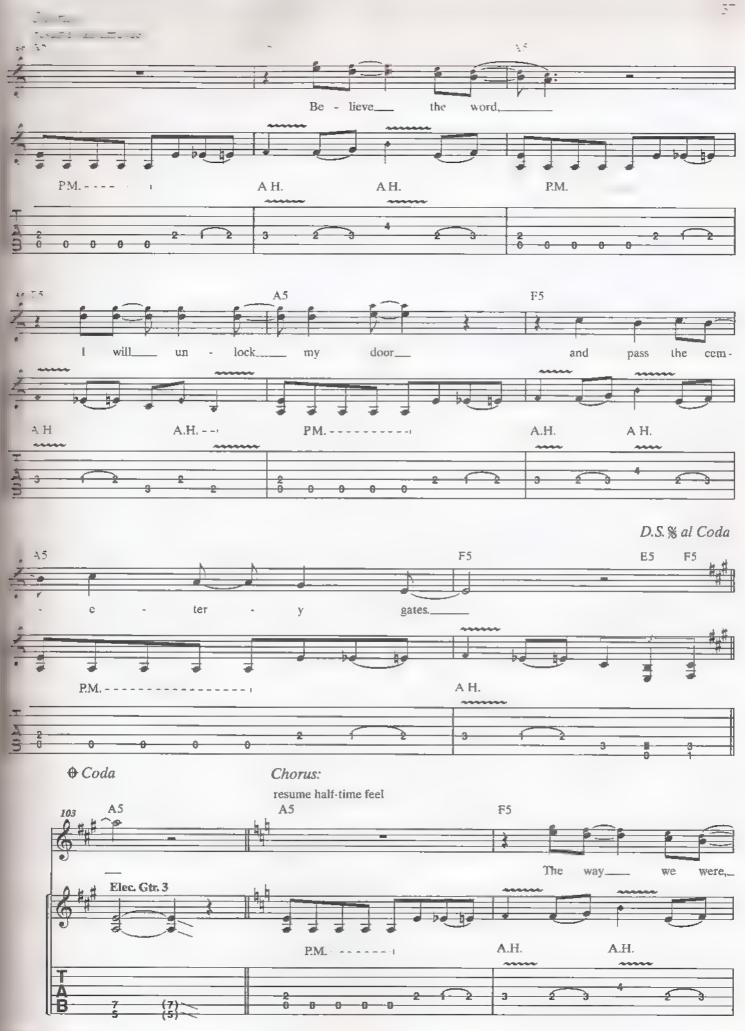




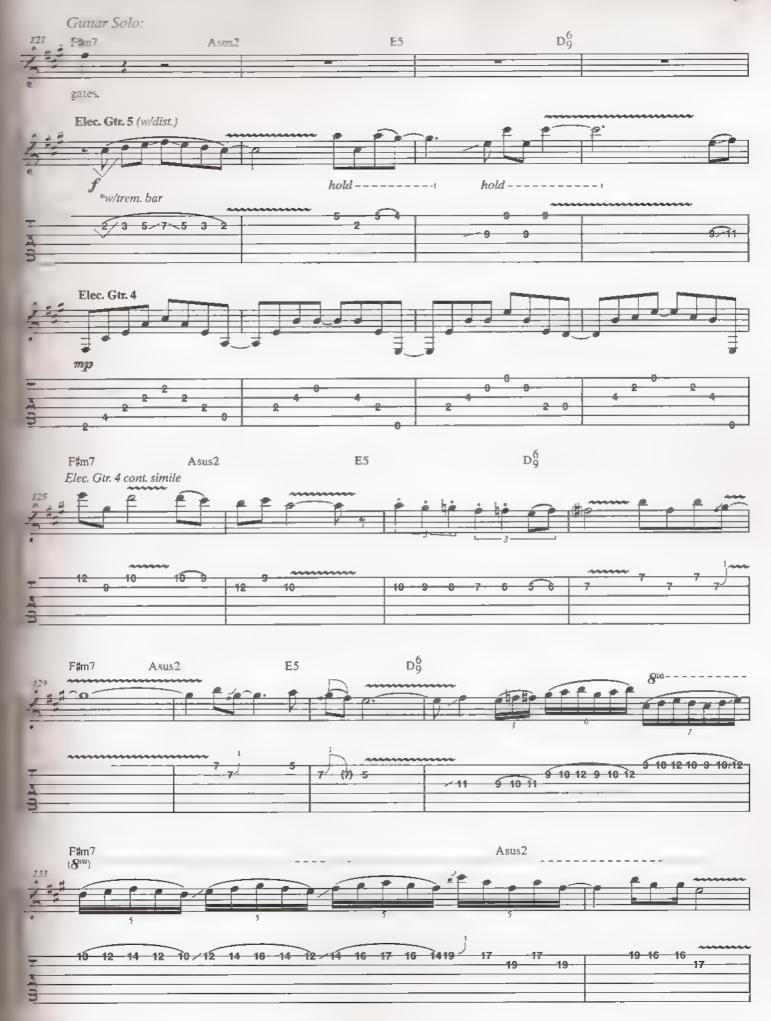


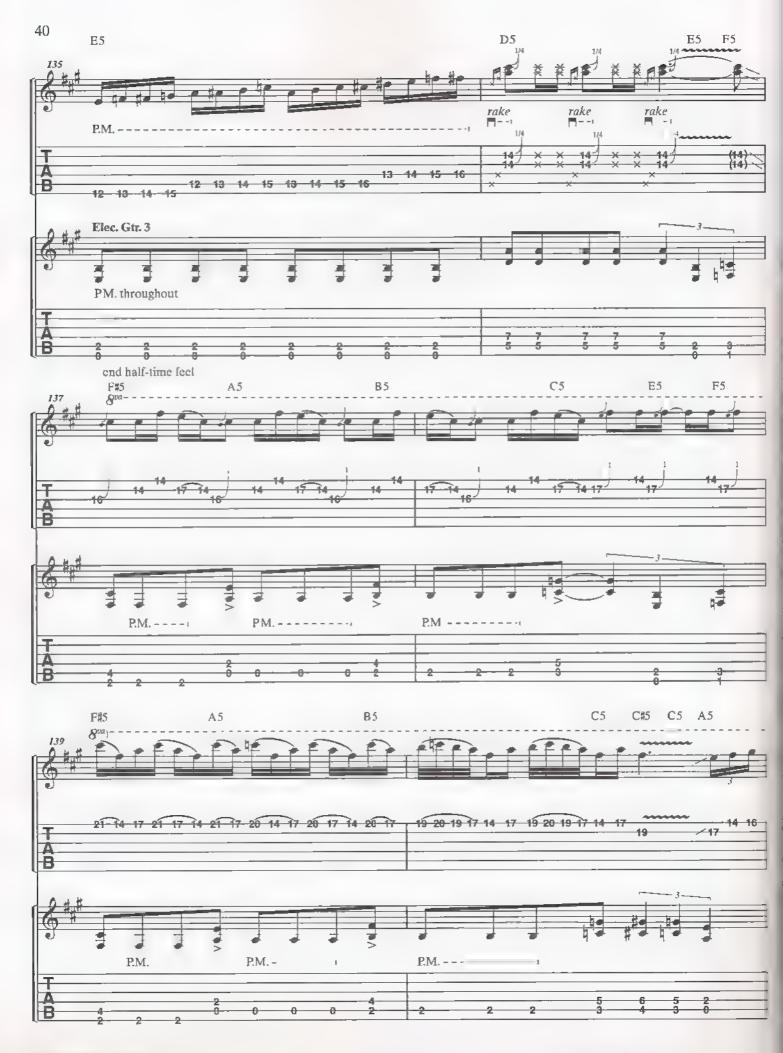
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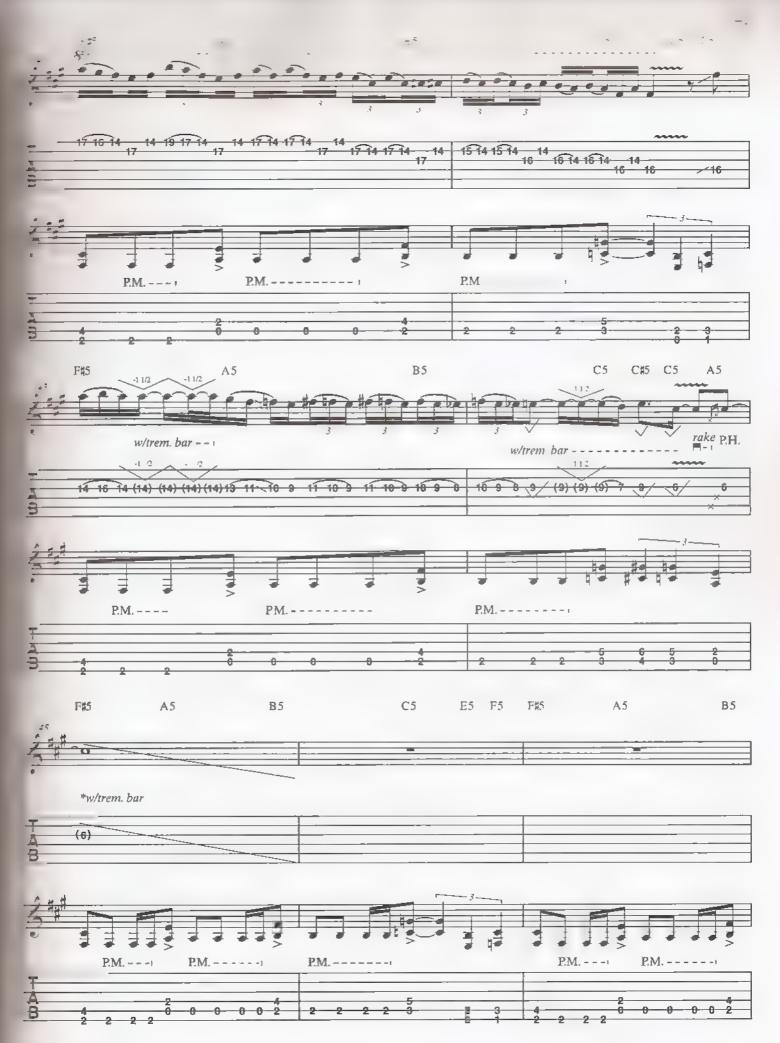


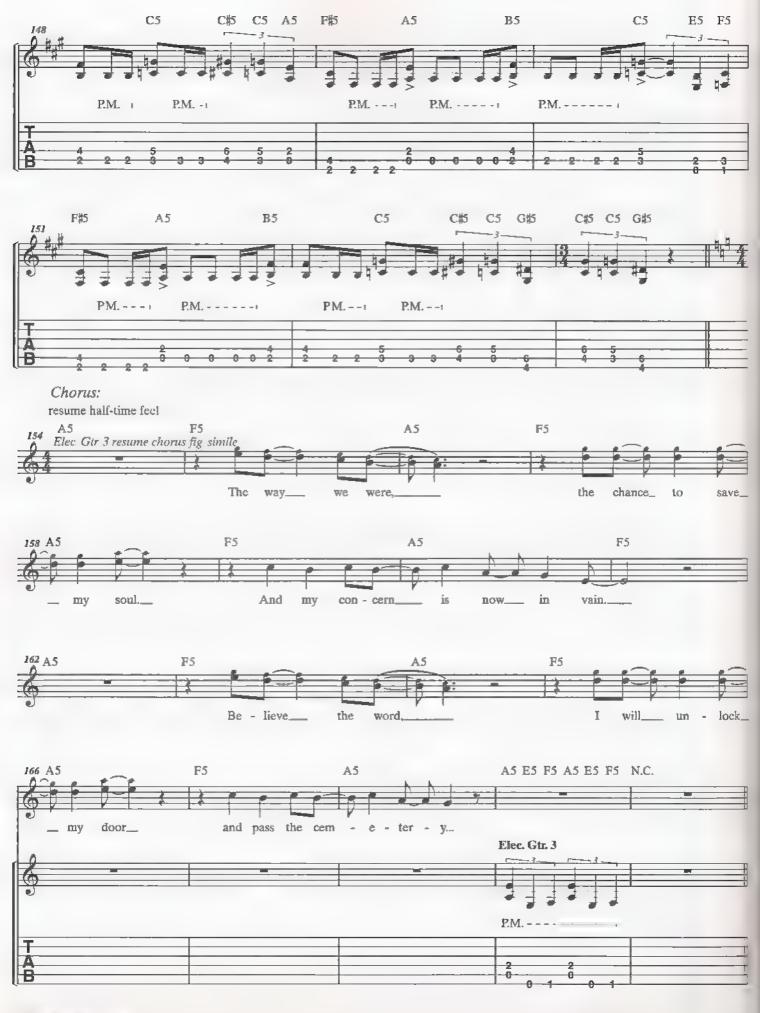






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COWBOYS FROM HELL

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Moderately . = 116

Intro:







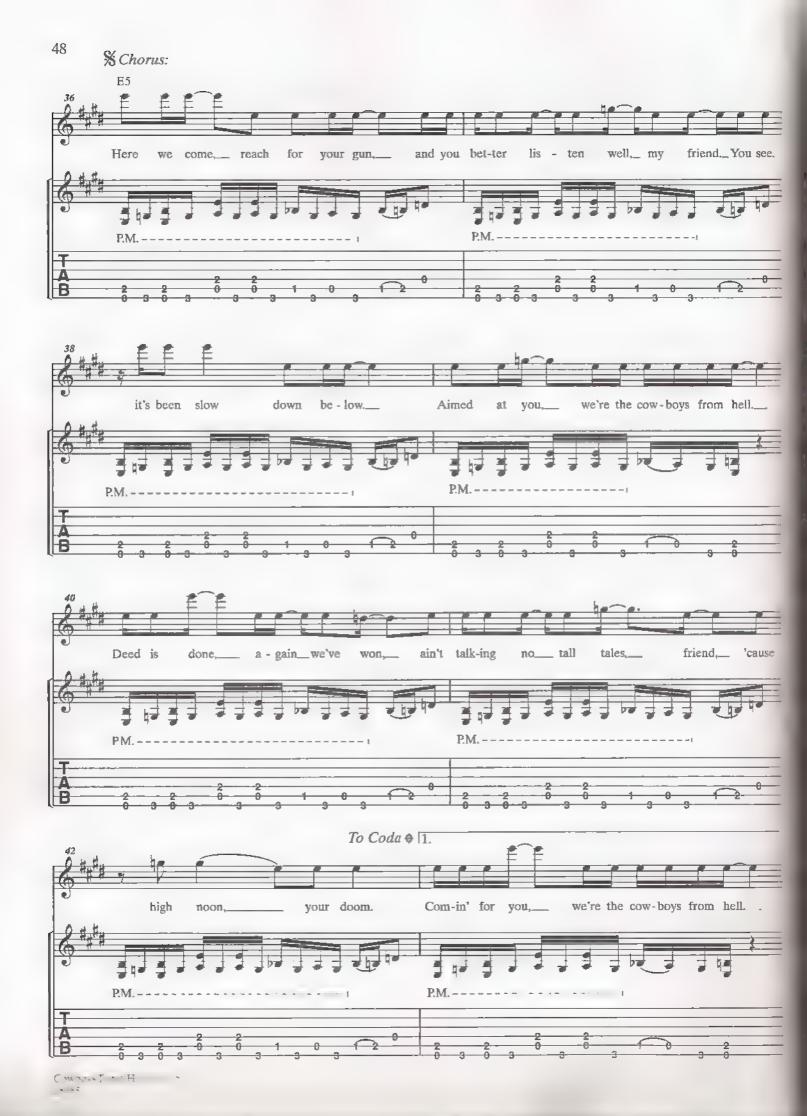


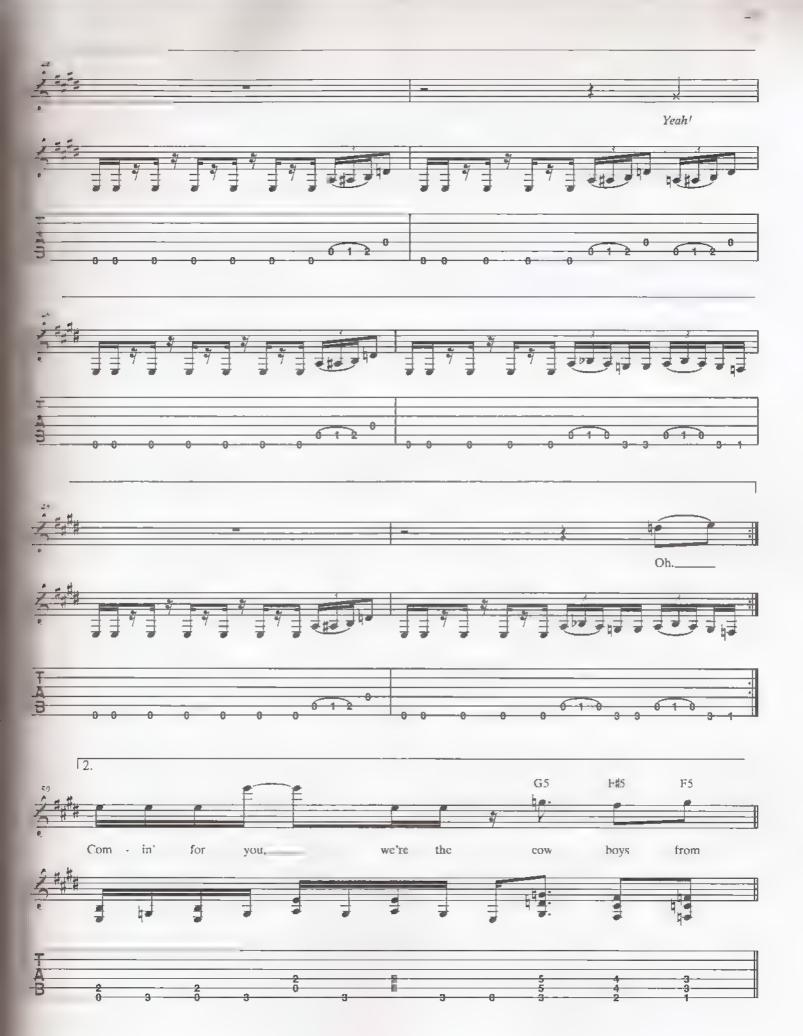










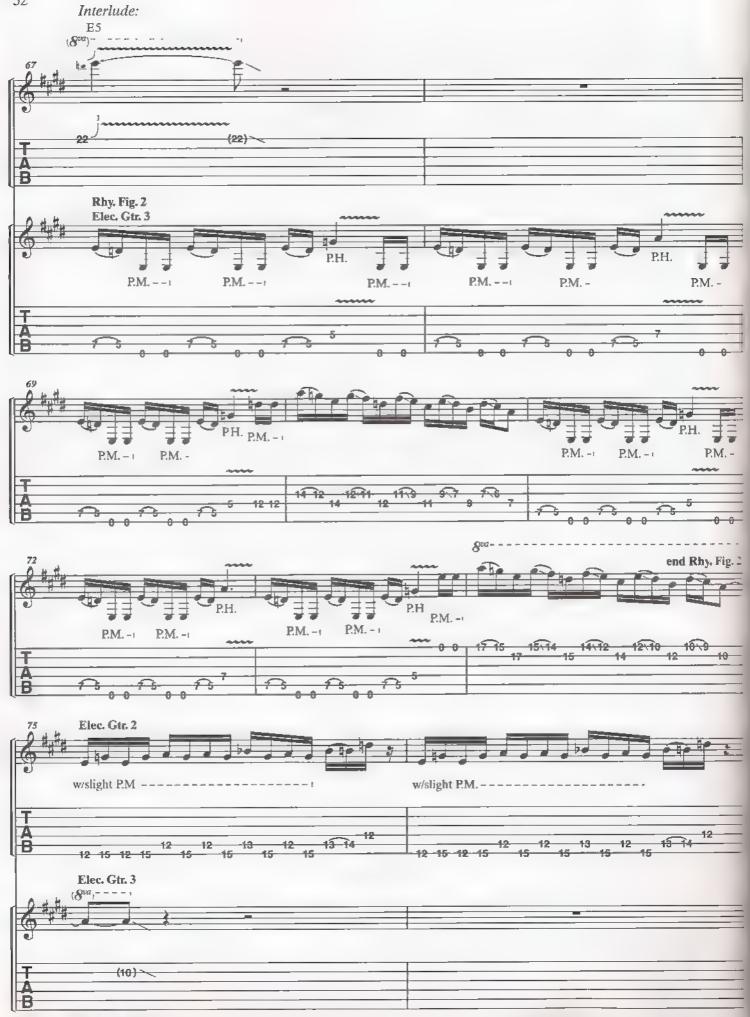


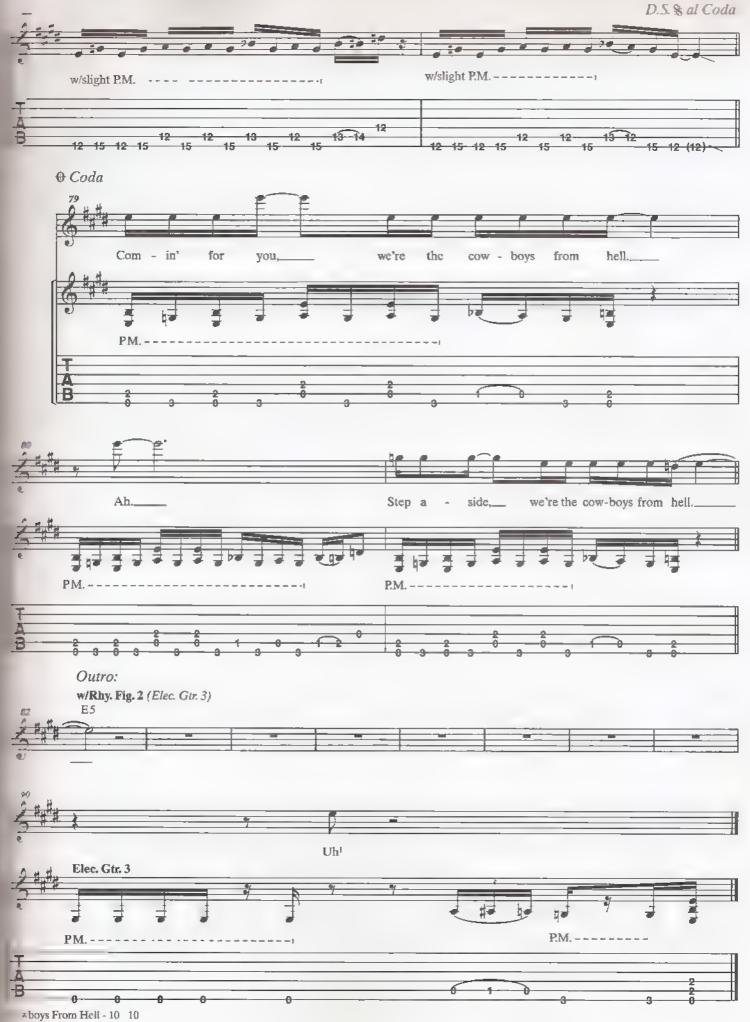






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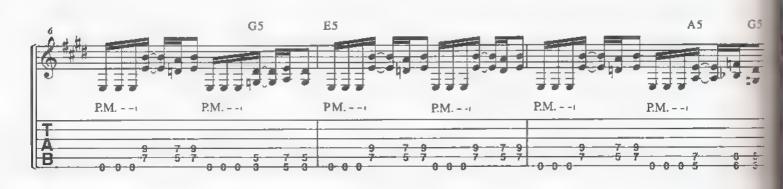
DOMINATION

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Drums end dbl. time feel





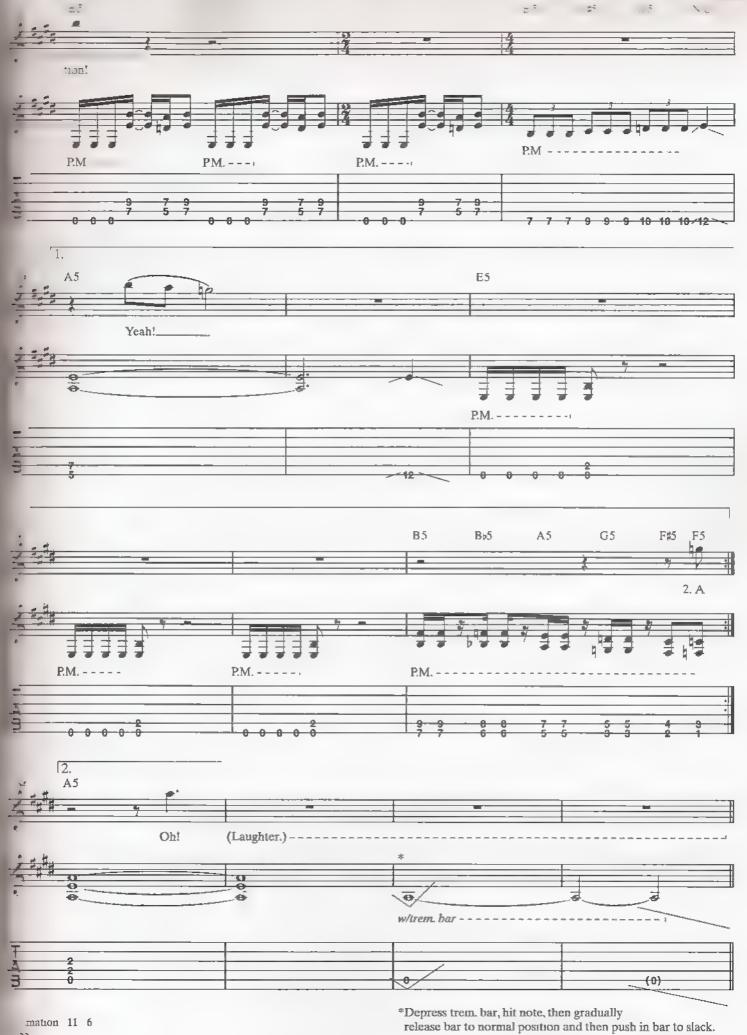






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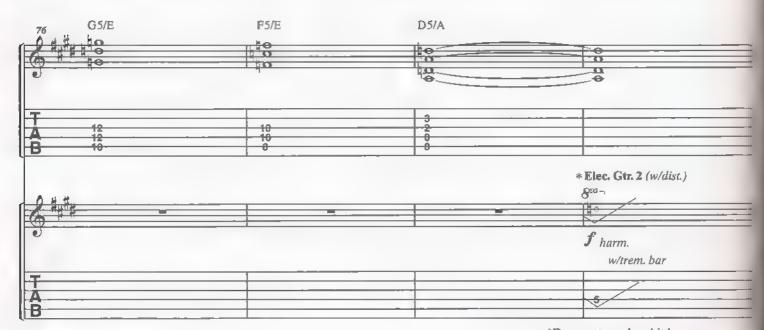








*Bass plays E.



Guitar Solo:

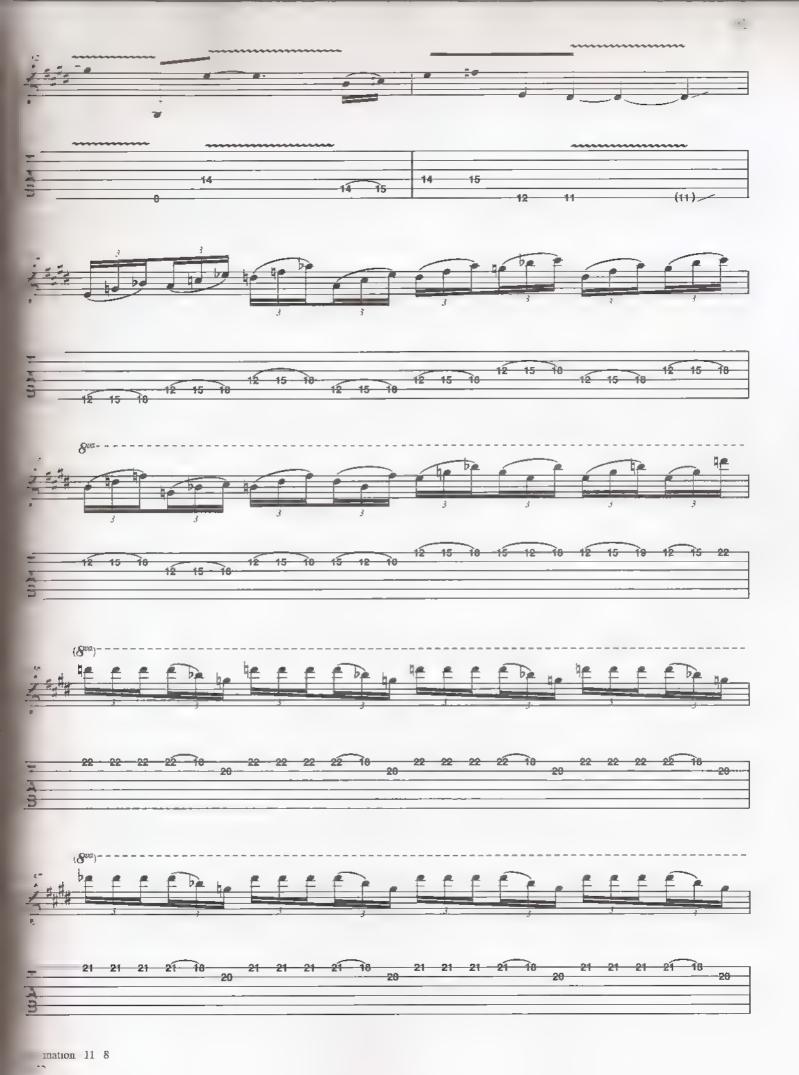
Elec, Gtr. 1 tacet

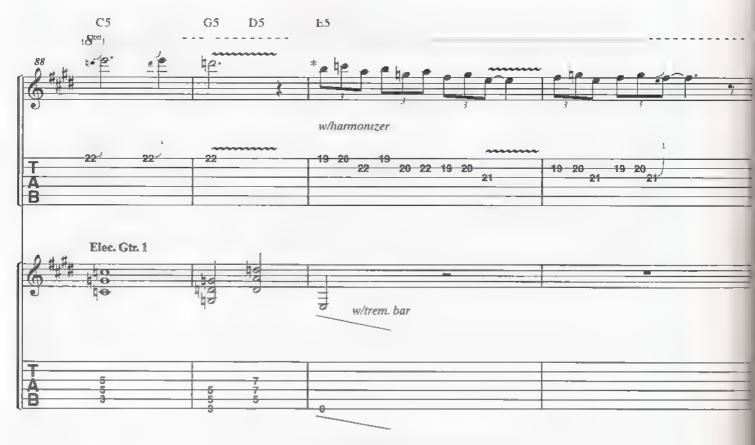
*E5

*Depress trem. bar, hit harmonic, then gradually release bar to normal position and continue to pull up on beyond normal postion.

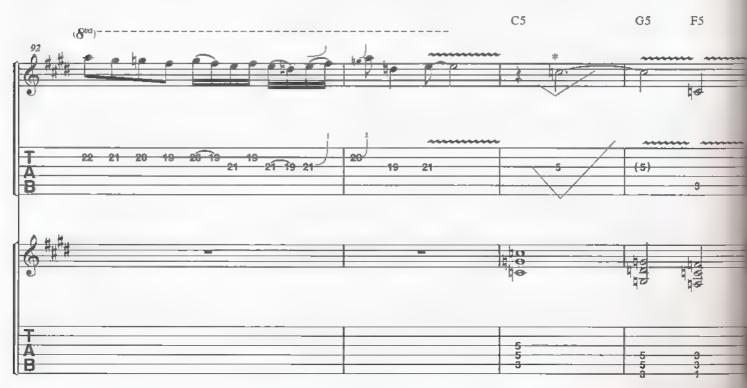


*Chord implied by bass gtr.

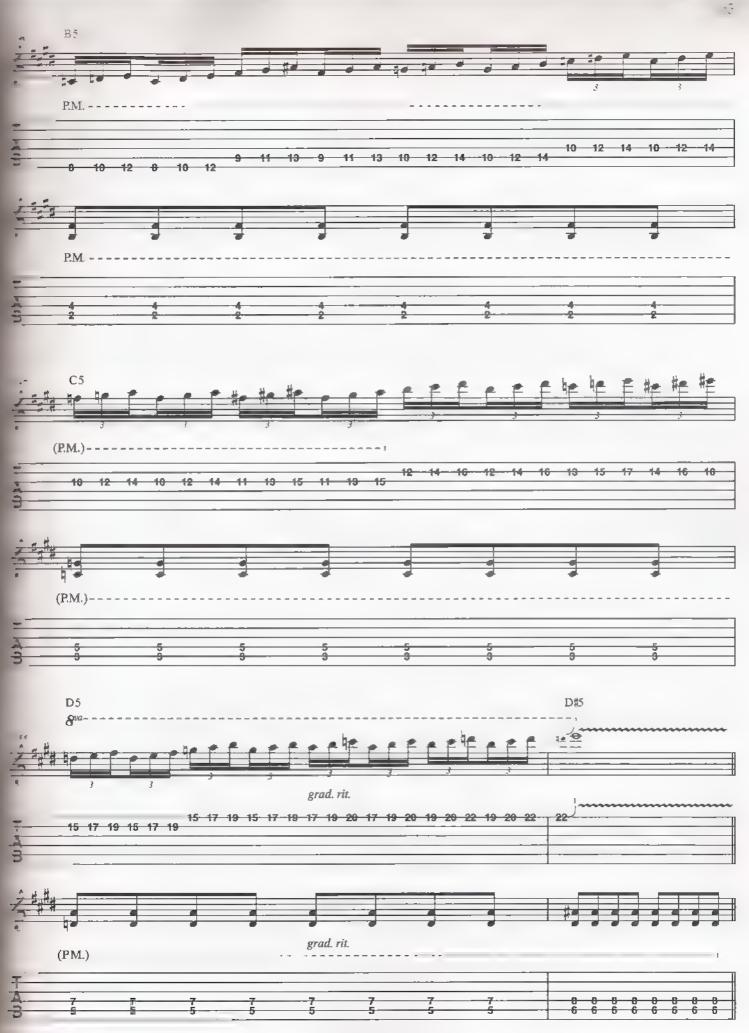




*Elec. Gtr. 2 played through a harmonizer, adding the interval of a 5th under each note being played.

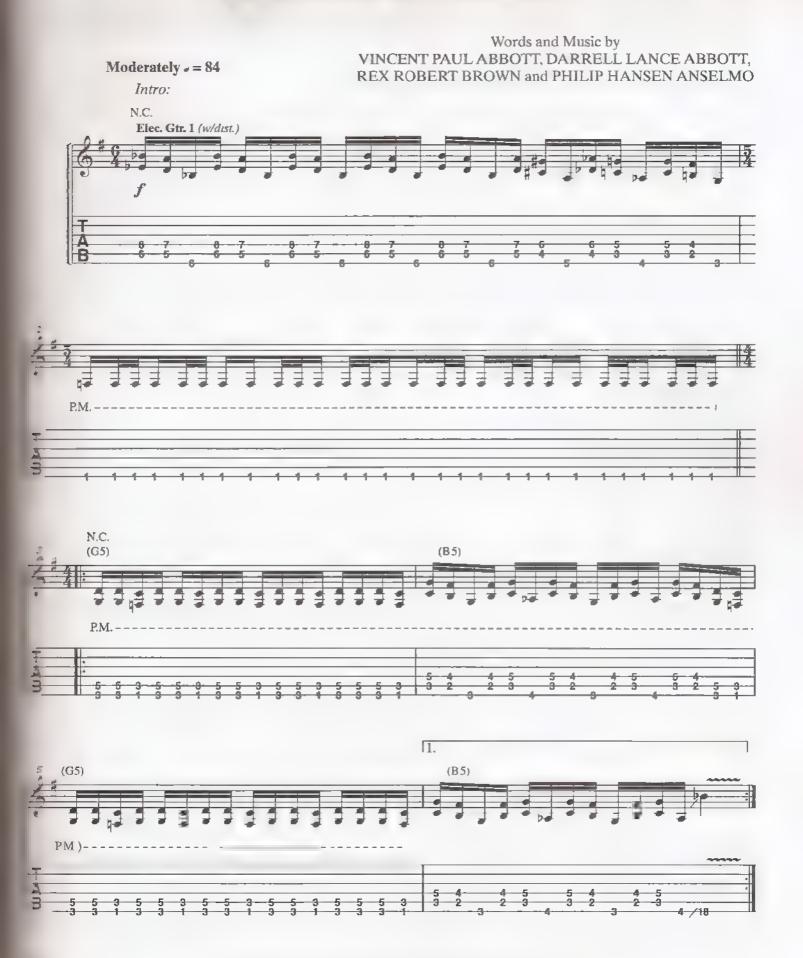


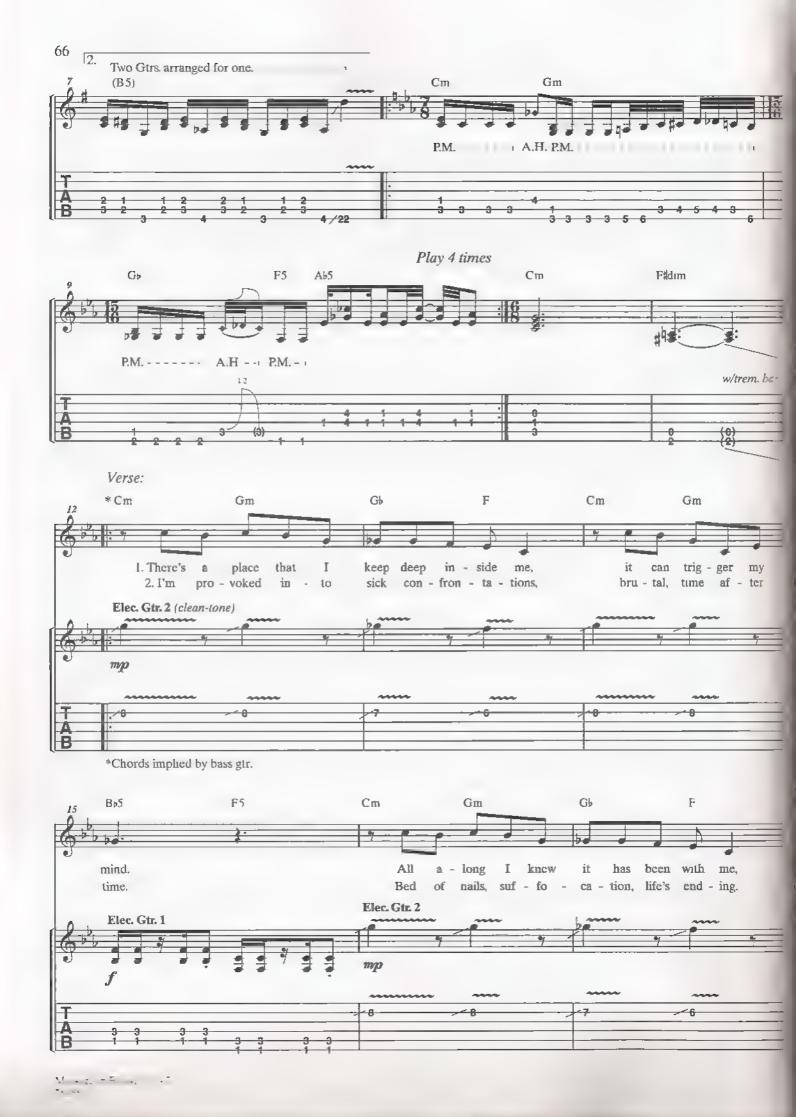
*Depress trem, bar, strike note, and gracrelease bar. Then shake bar for vibrato.

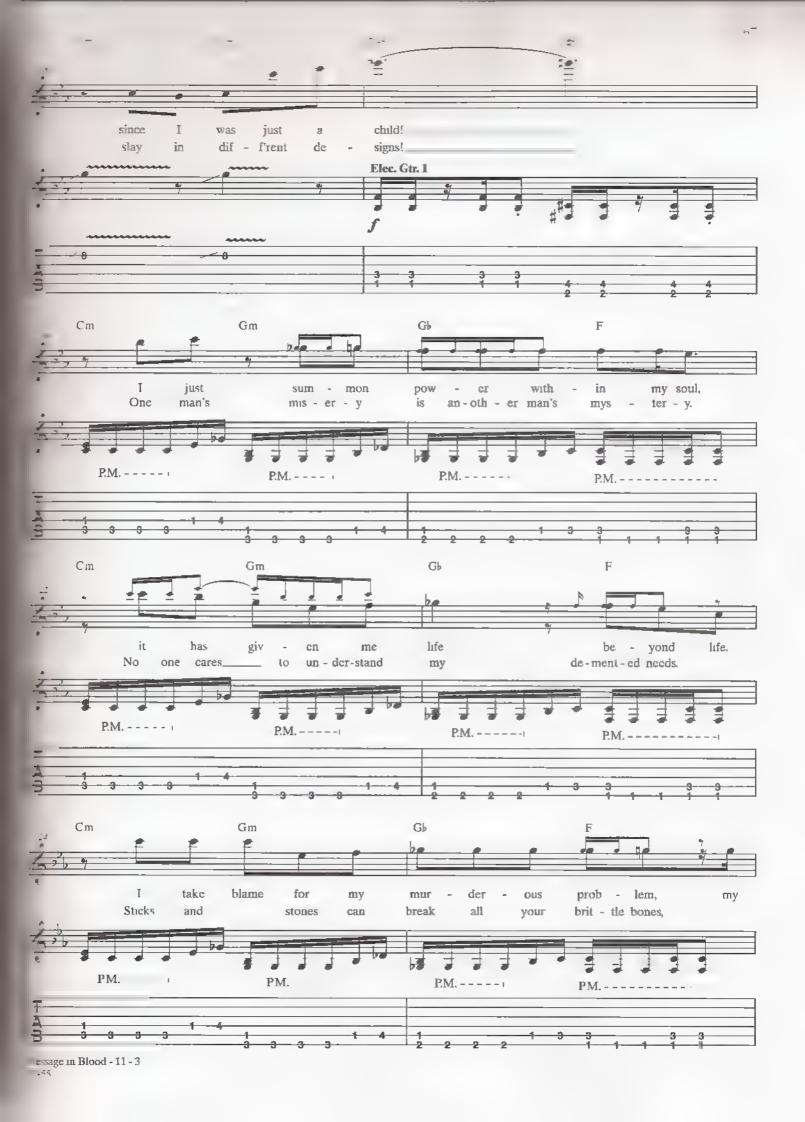


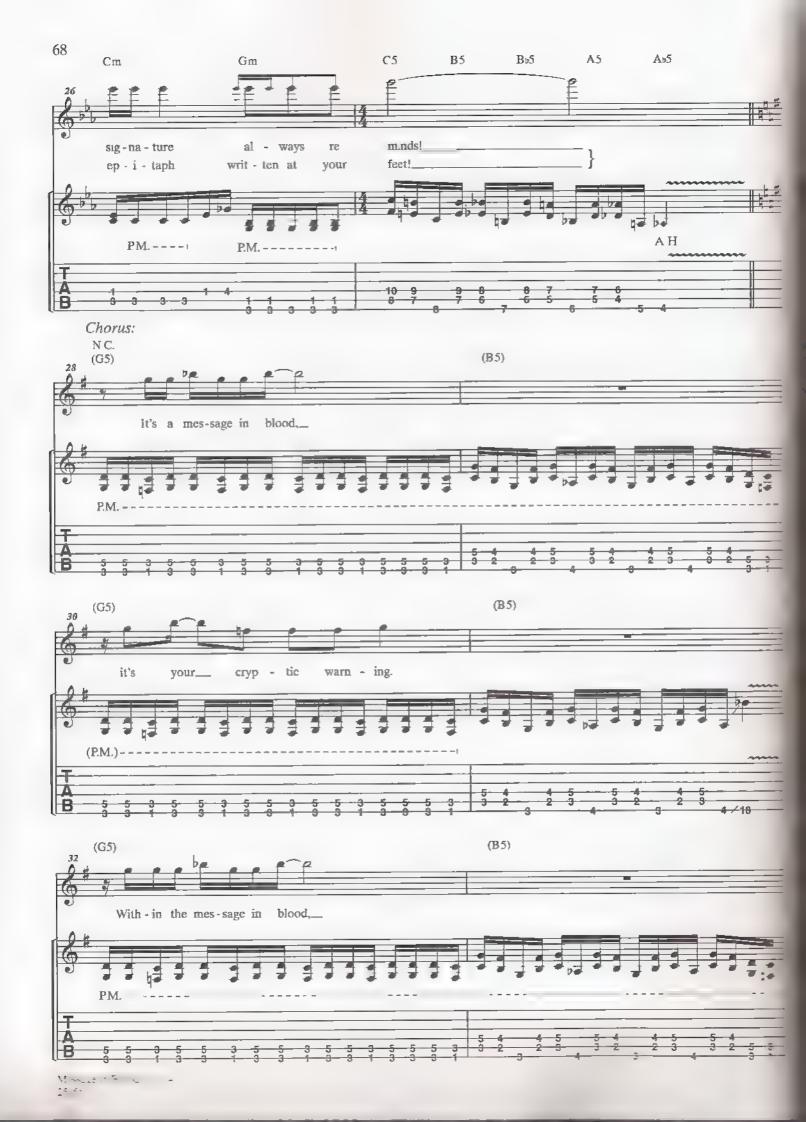


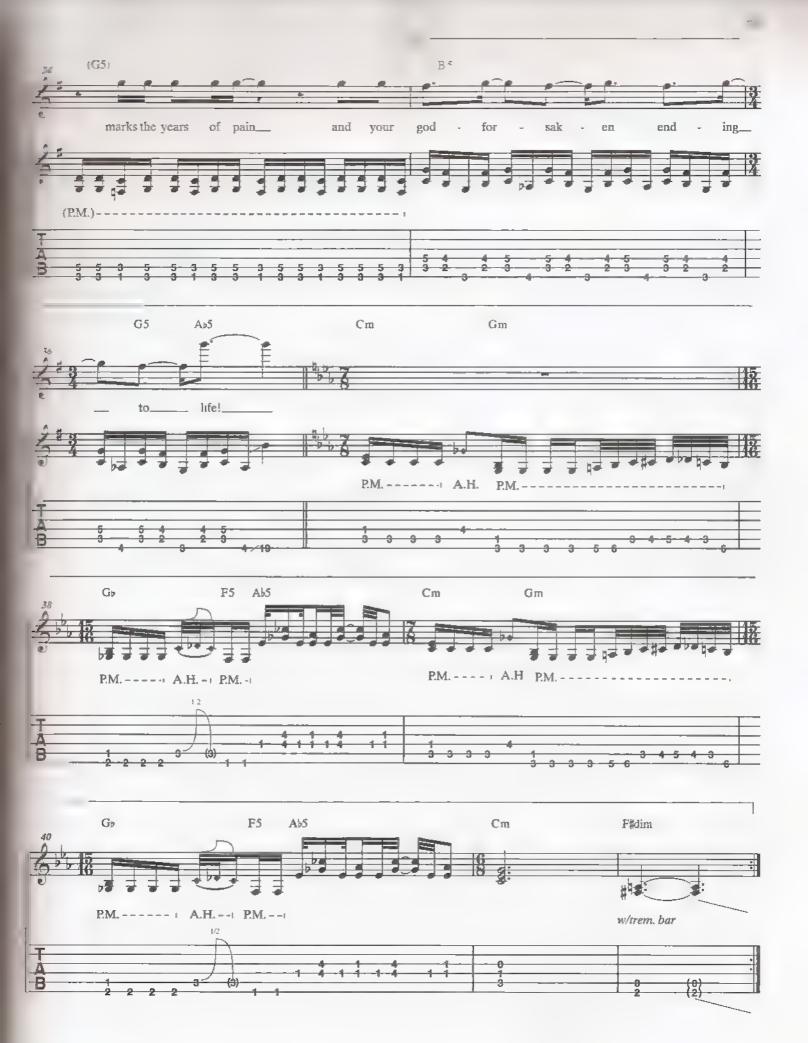
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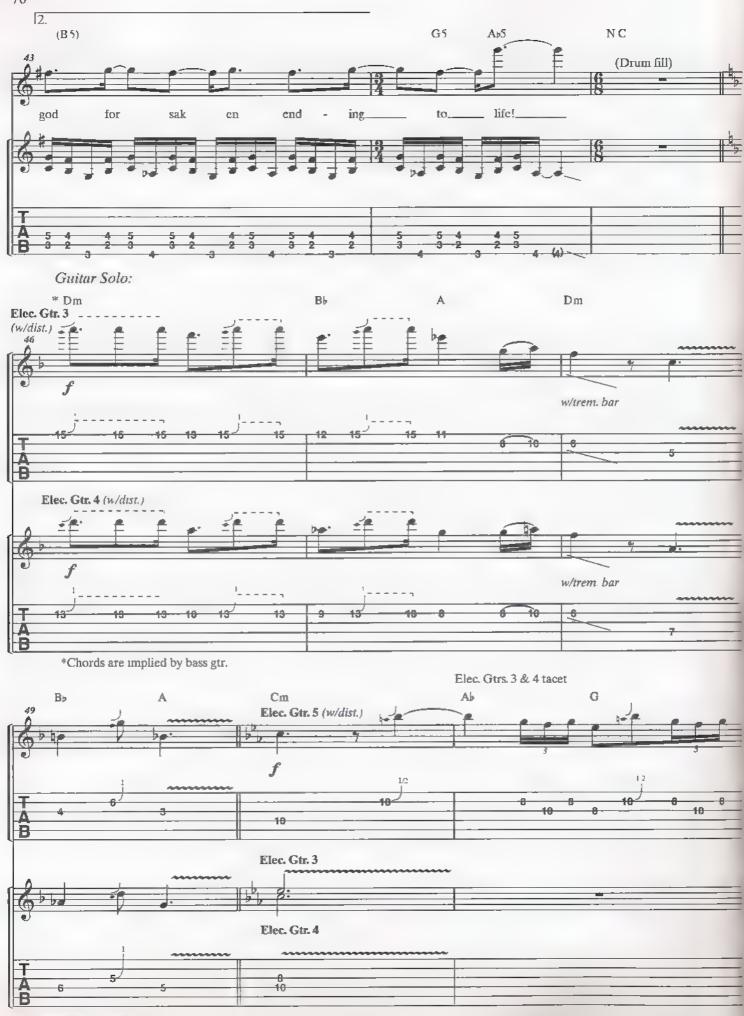


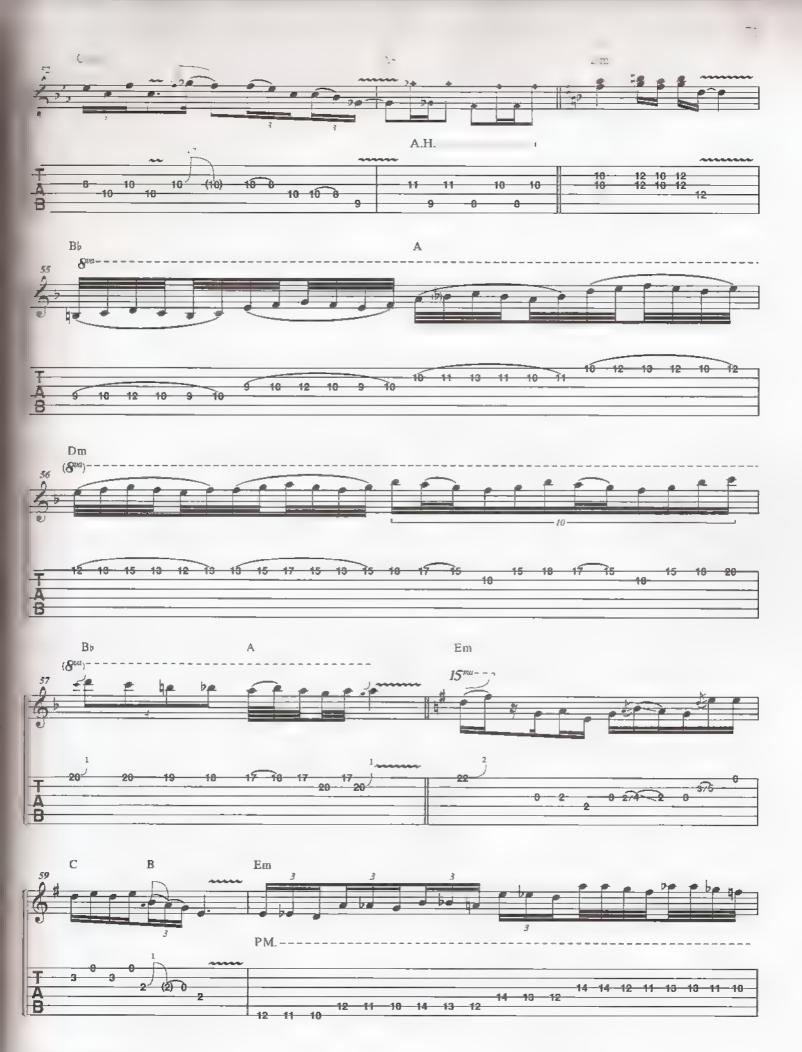






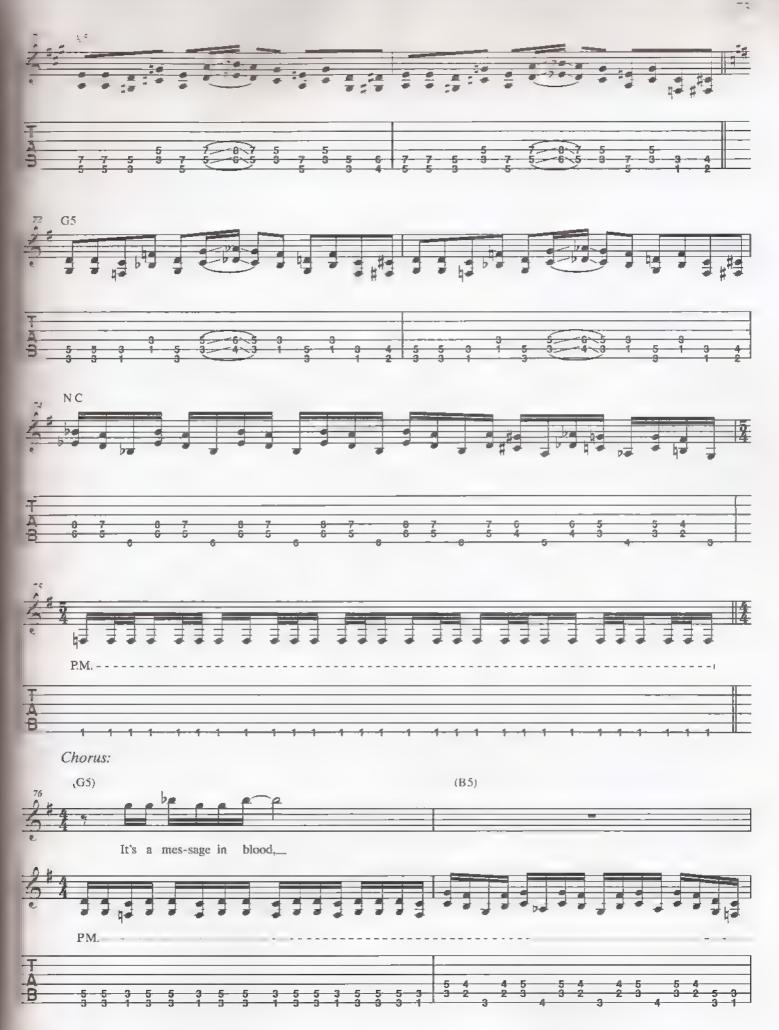






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Massage 7 B & 25 75

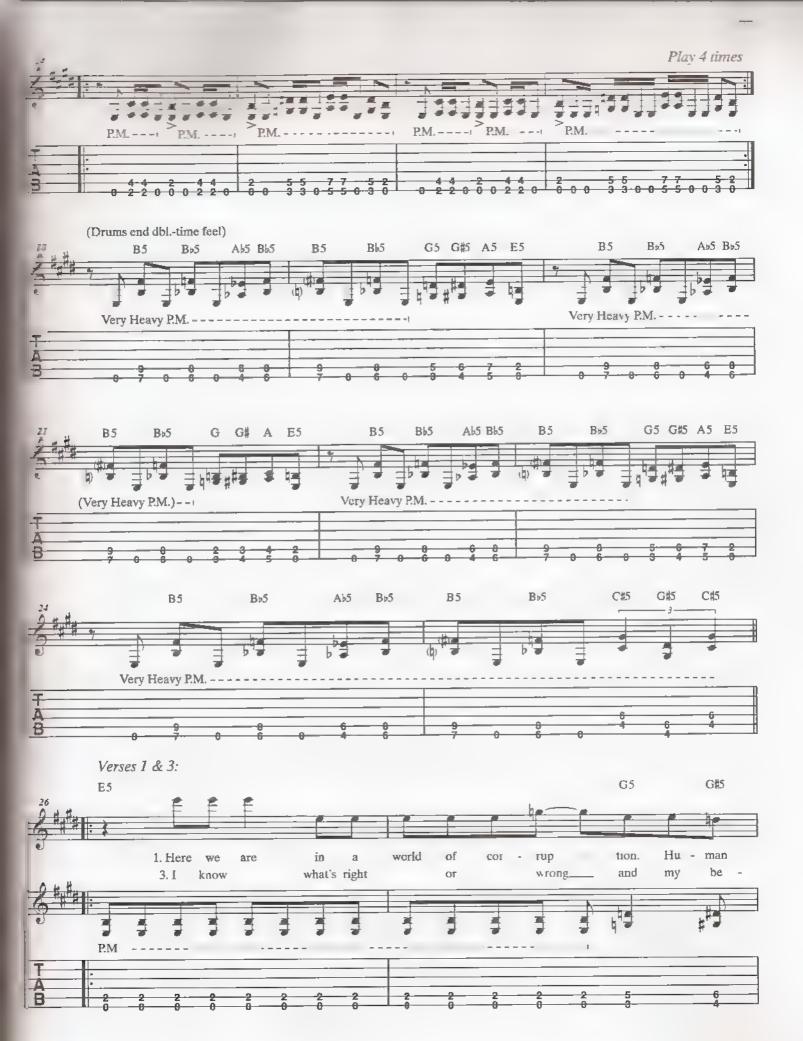


HERESY

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REX ROBERT BROWN and PHILIP HANSEN ANSELMO

Fast = 168 (drums play dbl. time feel) REX





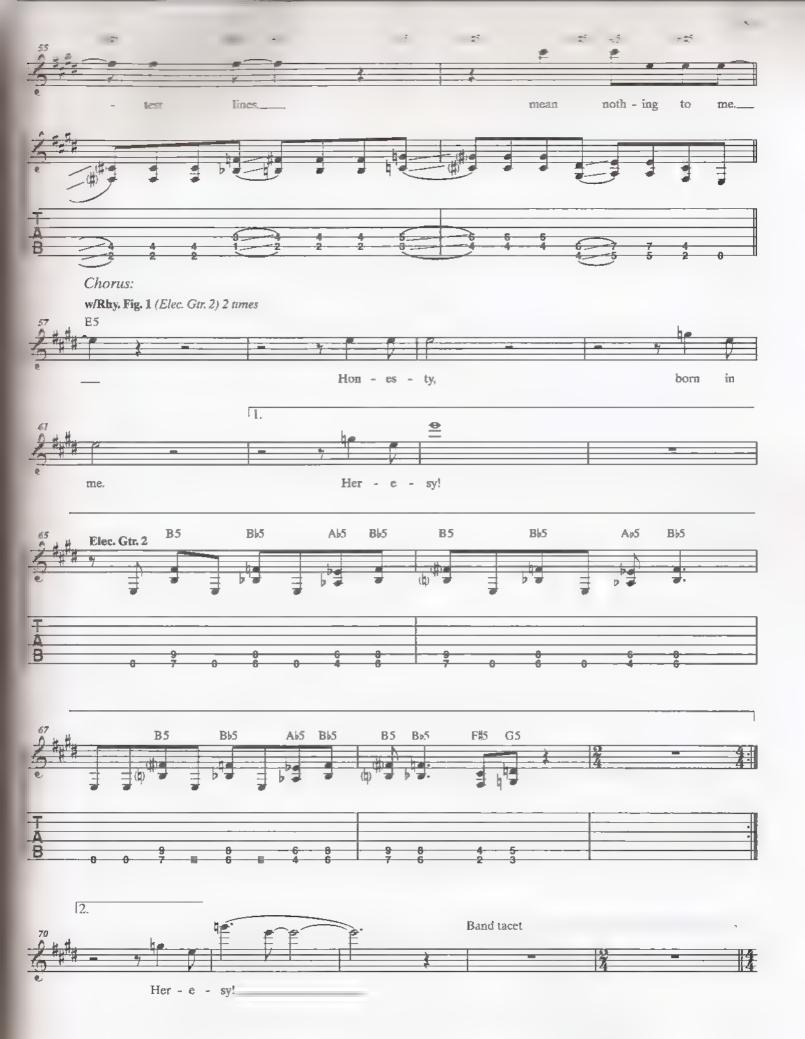




Heresy - 10 - 4 25955

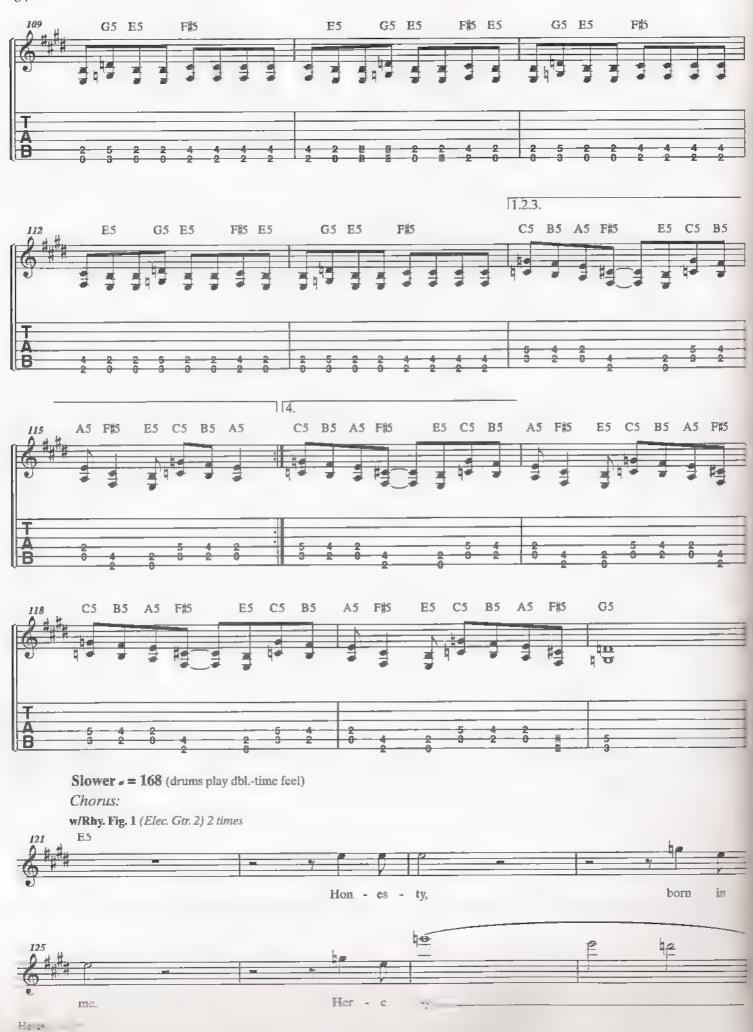
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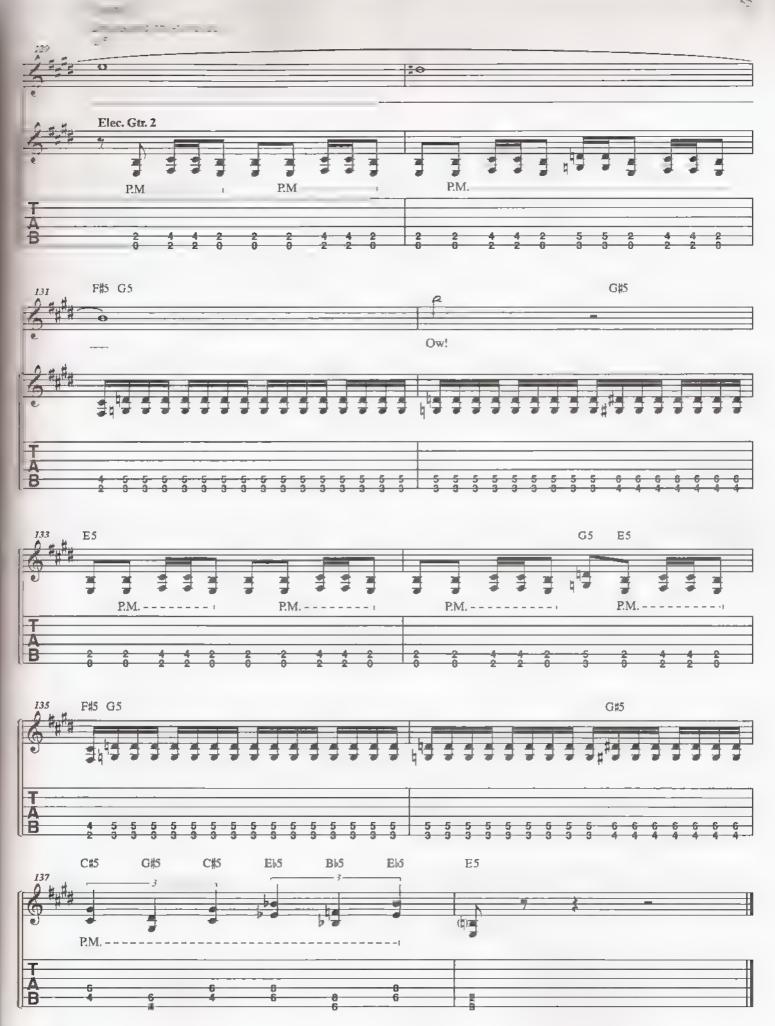






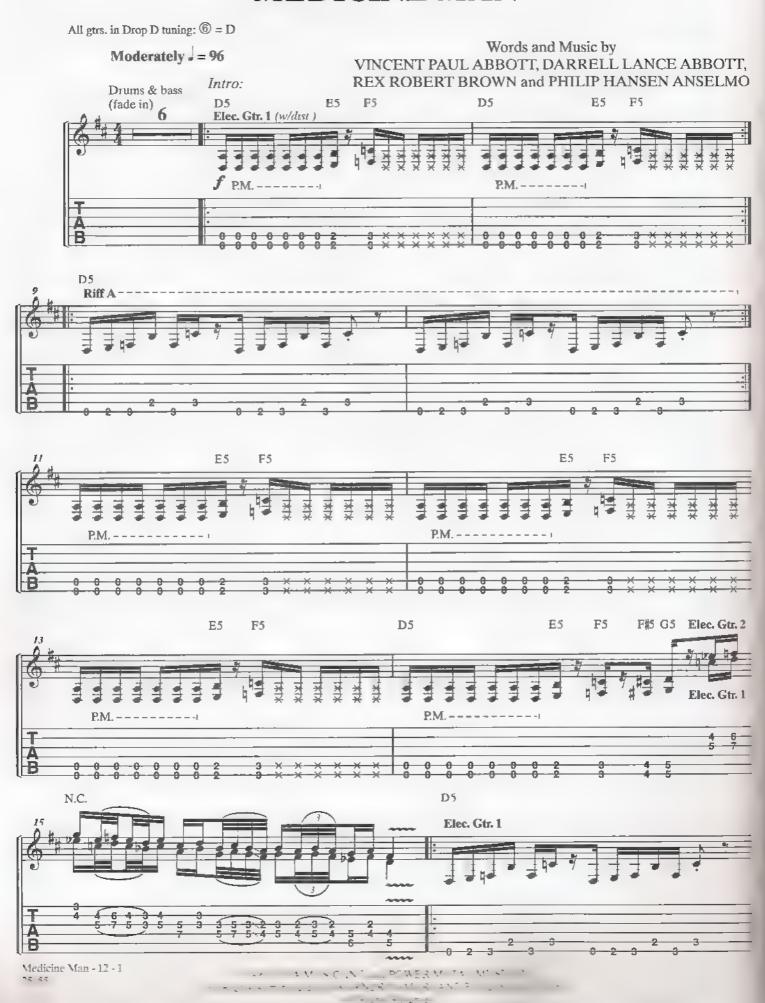
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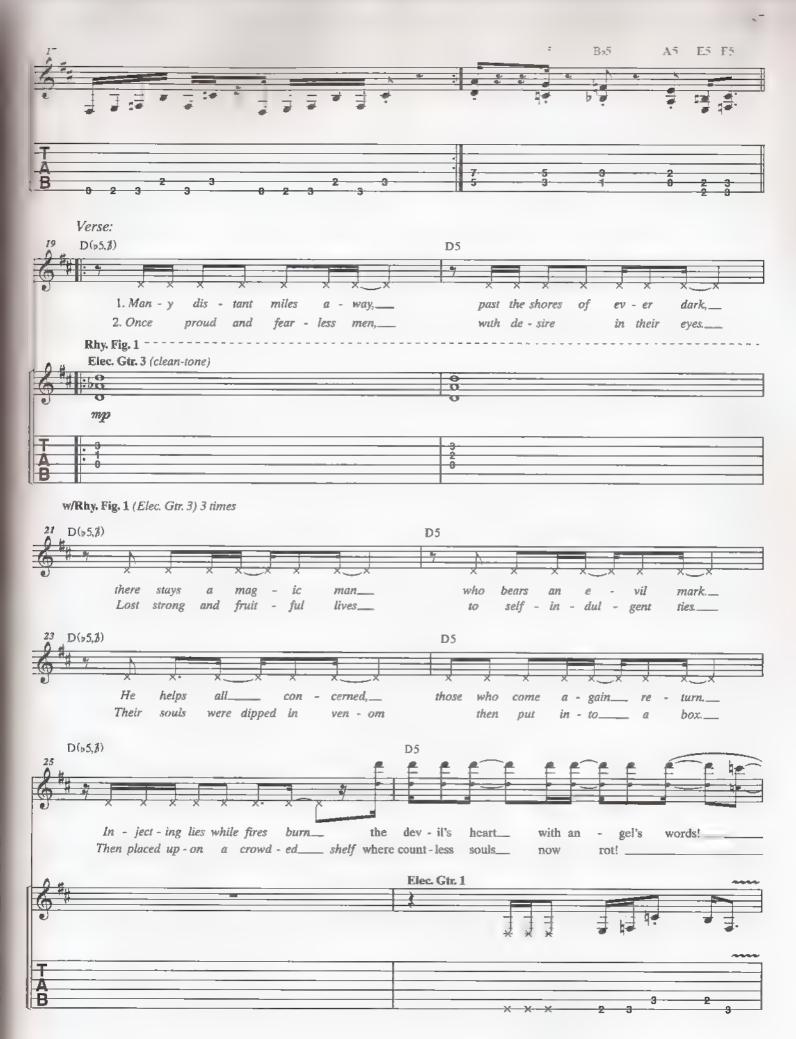




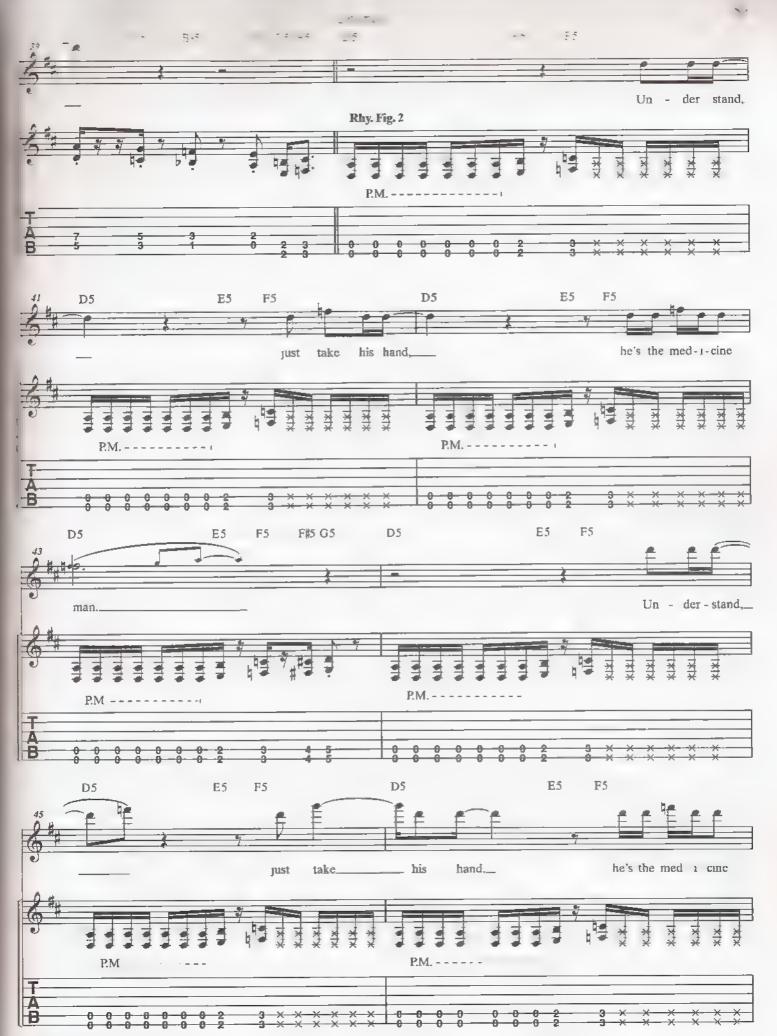
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MEDICINE MAN



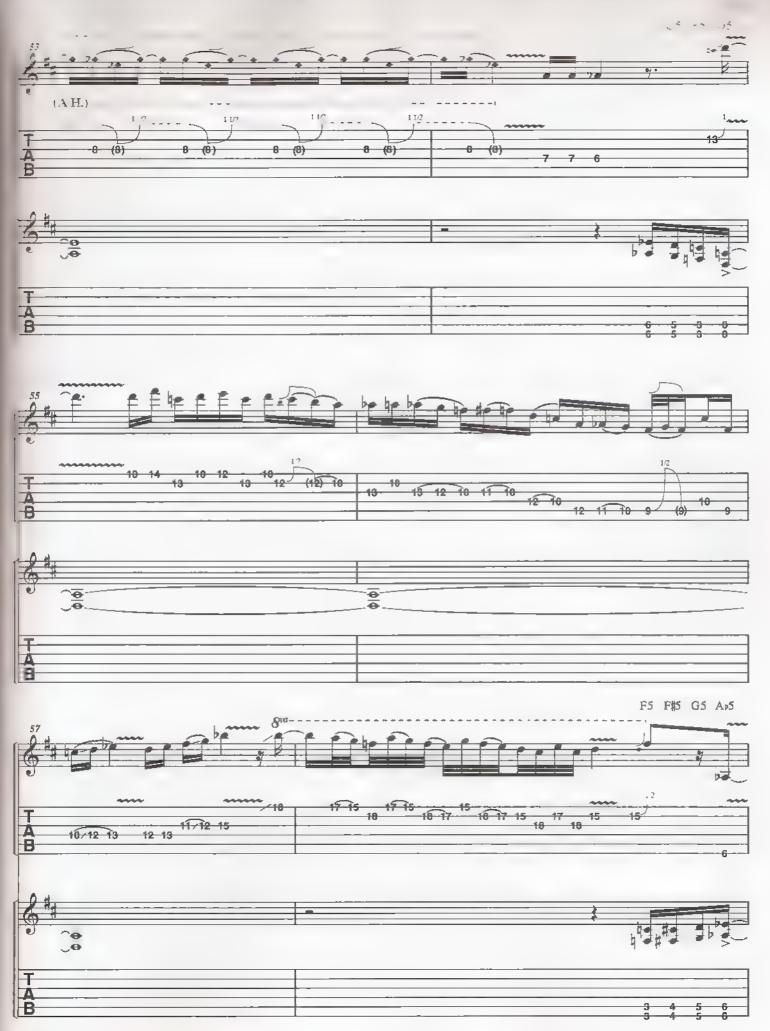






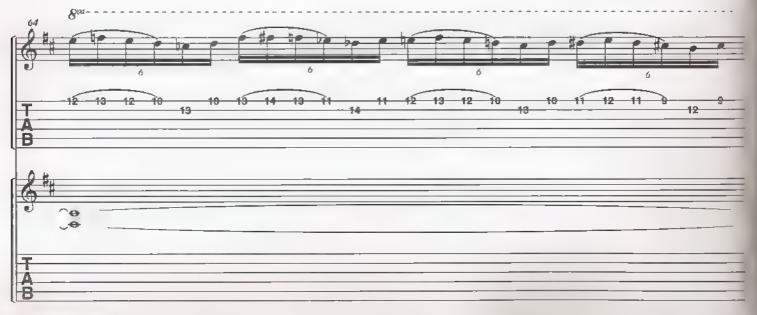
Medicine Man - 12 - 4 25955







*Hit harmonic and gradually depress trem, bar to slack.

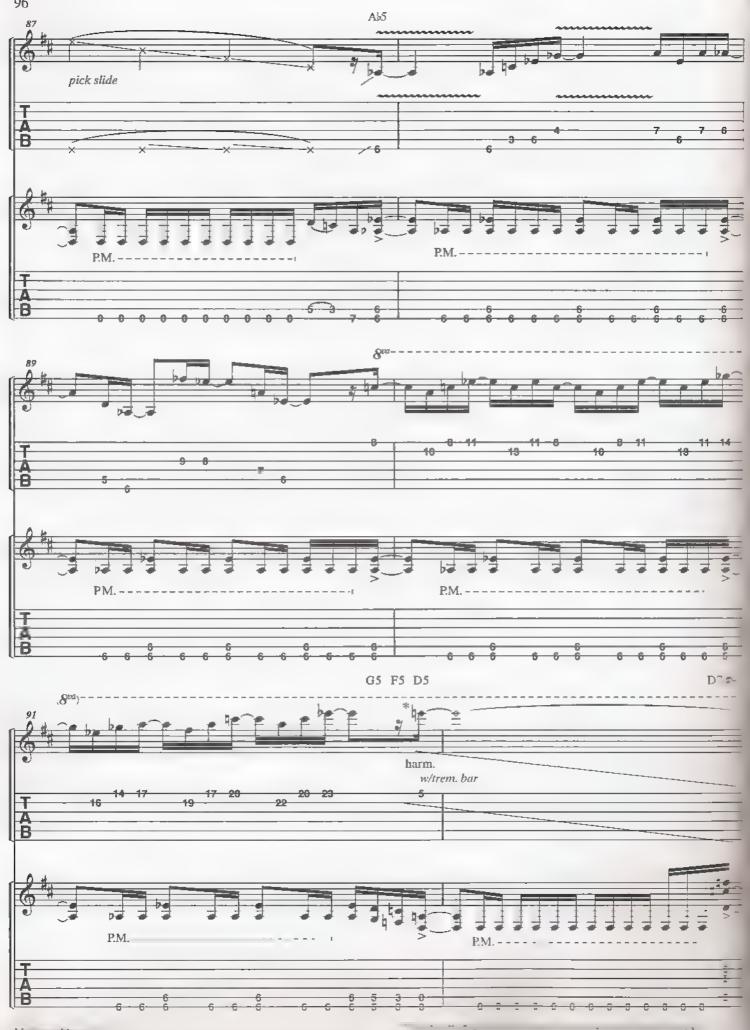


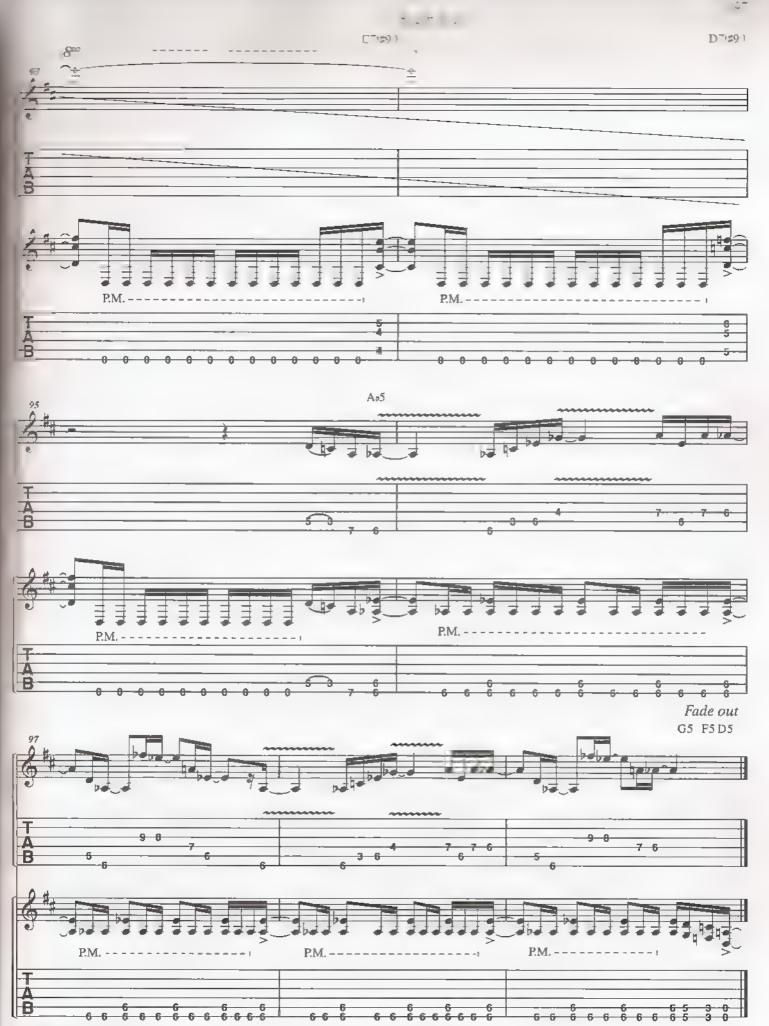


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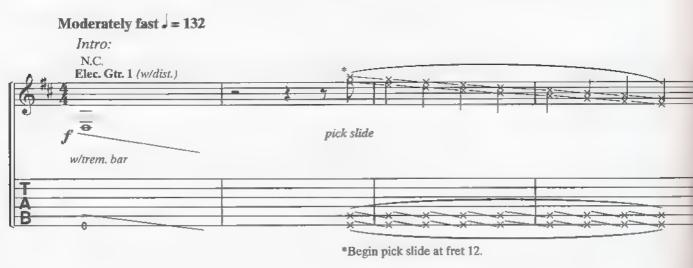


Medicine Man 12 12 25955

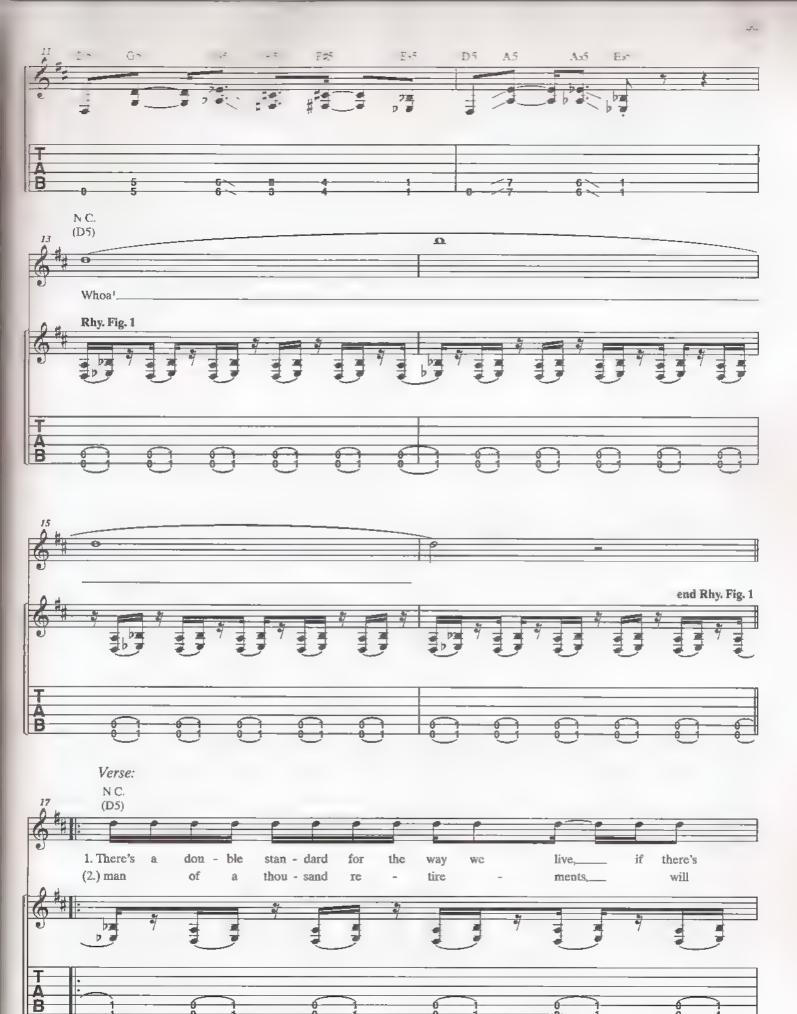
PRIMAL CONCRETE SLEDGE

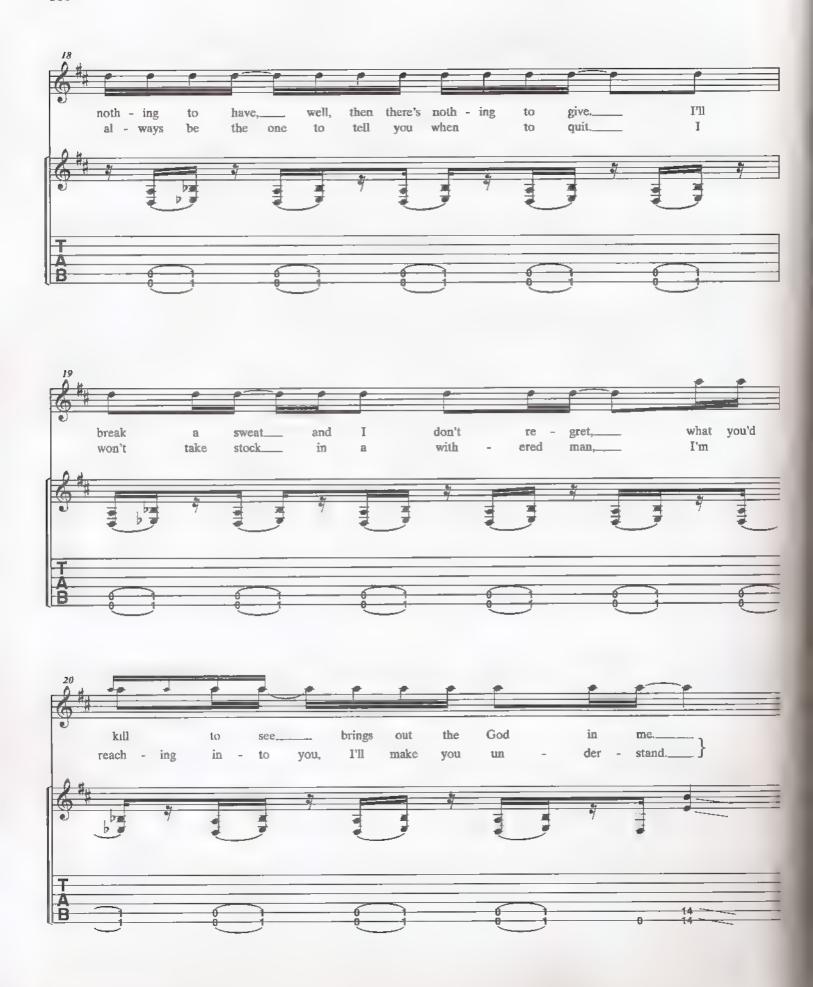
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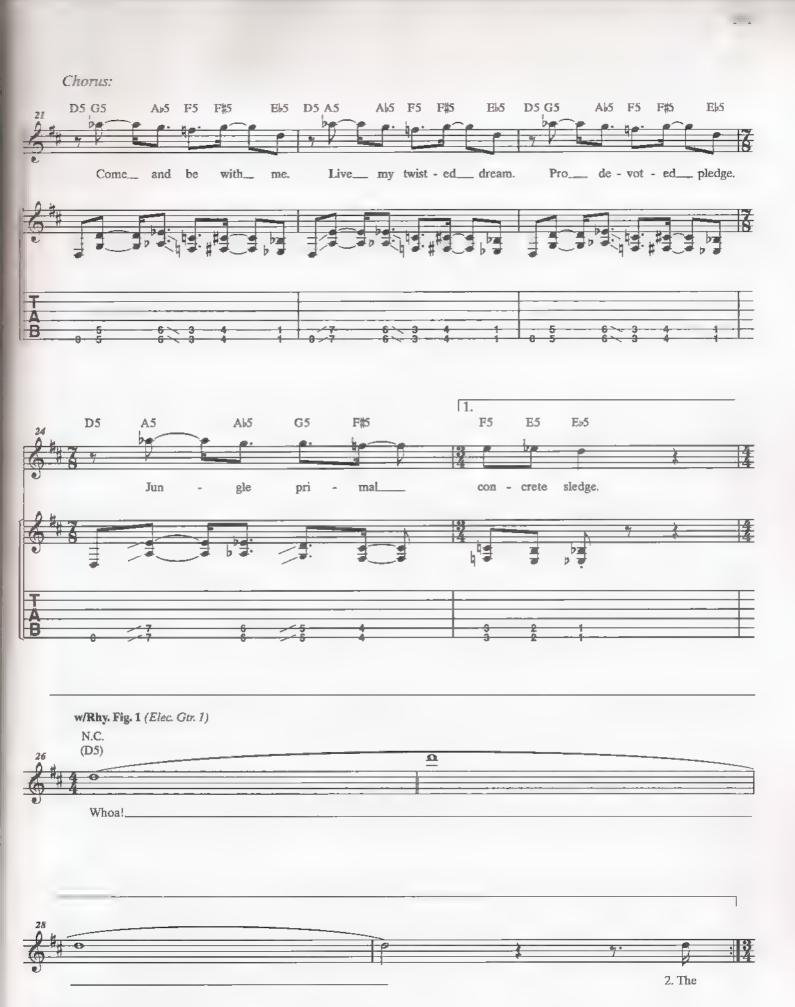
All gtrs. in Drop D tuning: 6 D

















Primal Concrete Sledge 7 6 25955

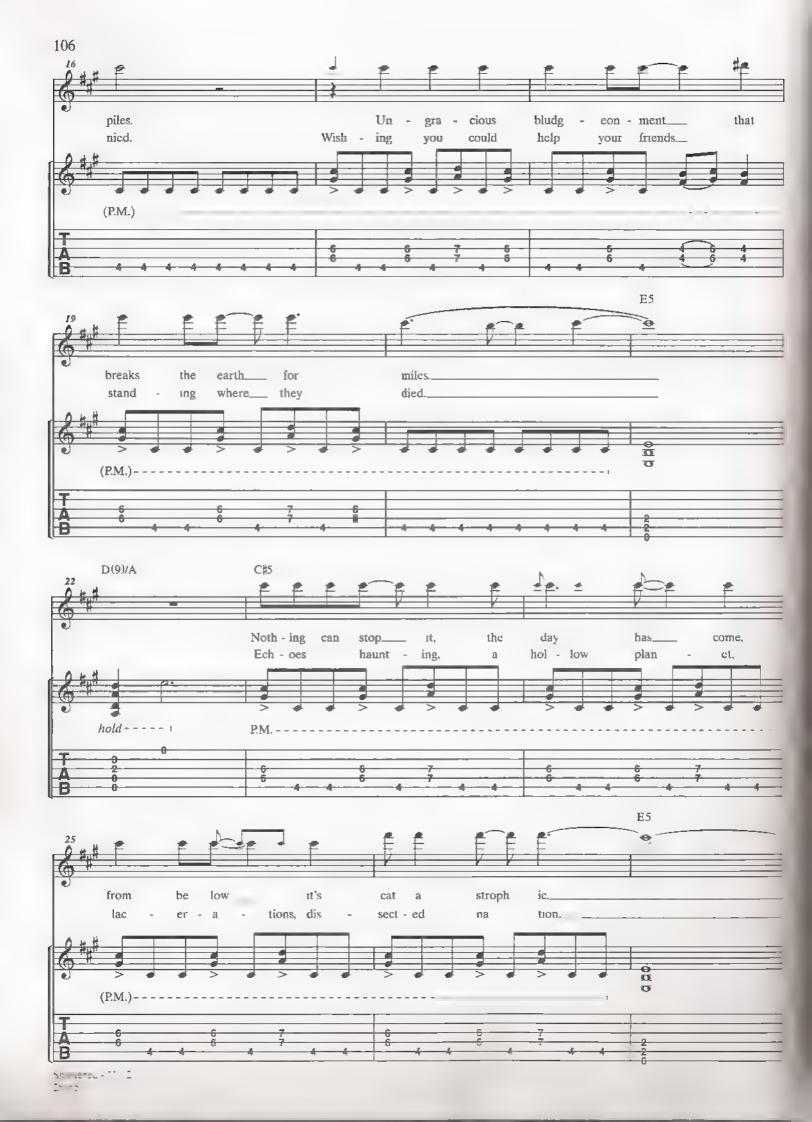


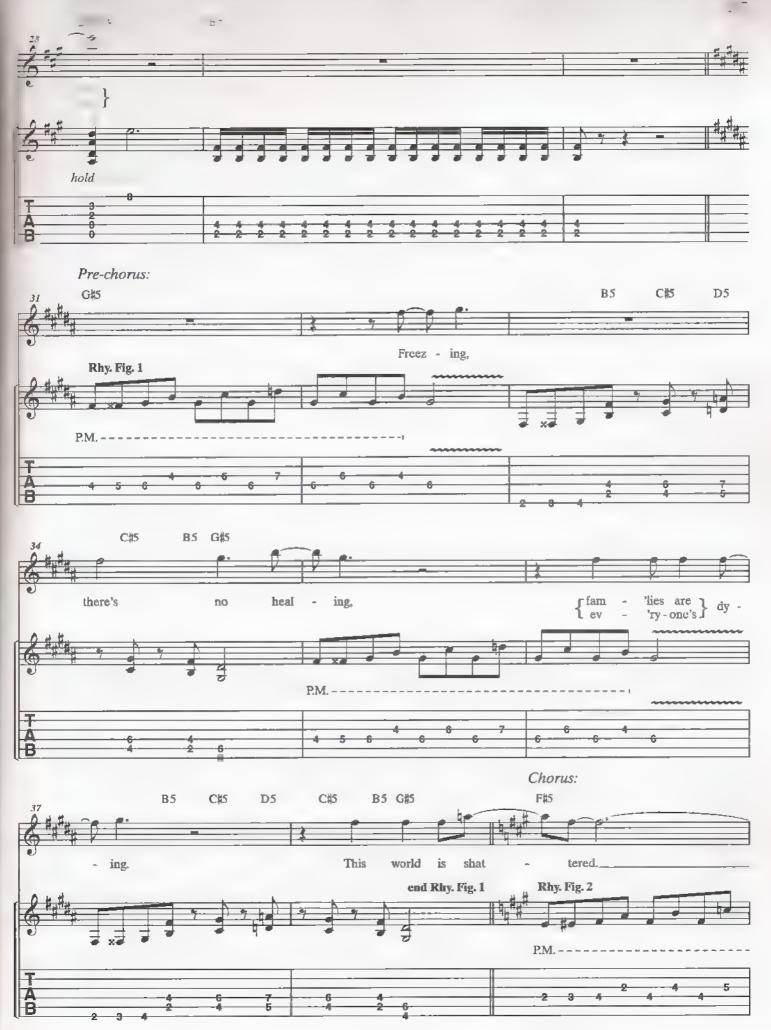
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SHATTERED

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REX ROBERT BROWN and PHILIP HANSEN ANSELMO

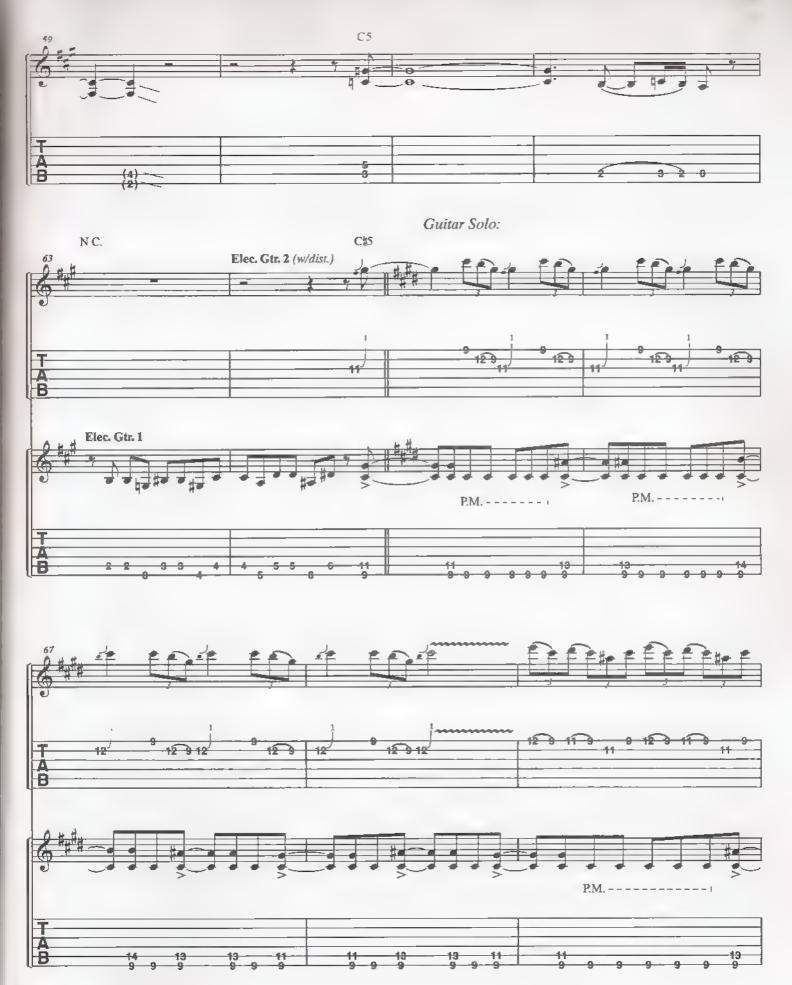


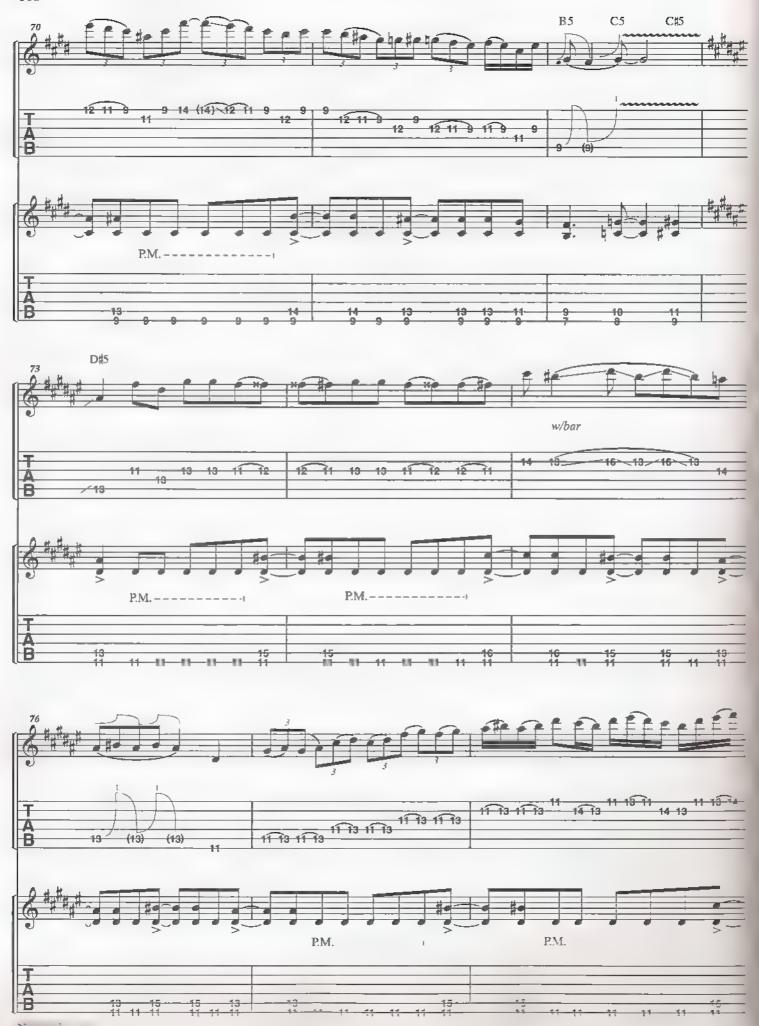




Shattered - 11 - 3 25955





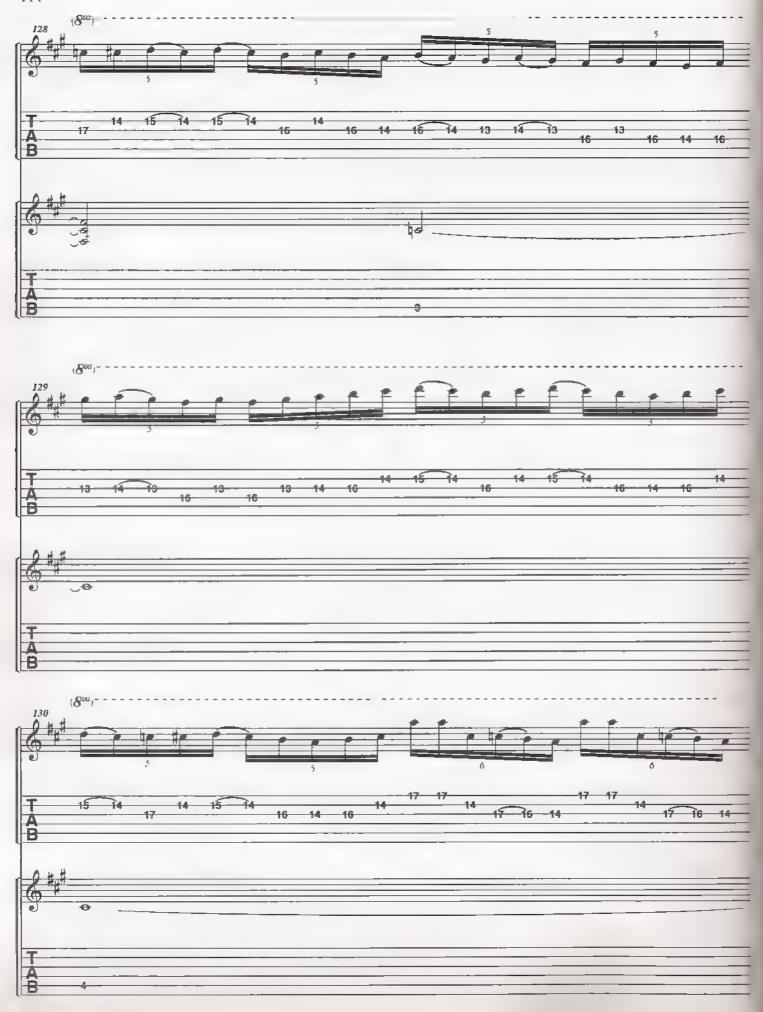


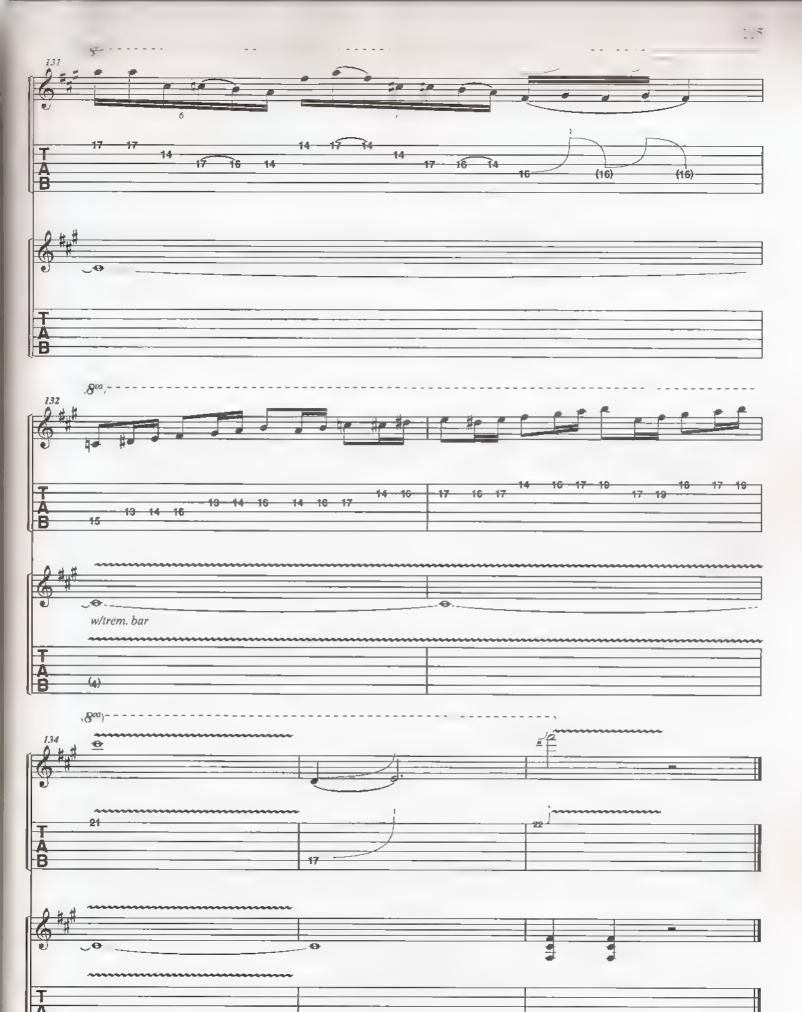






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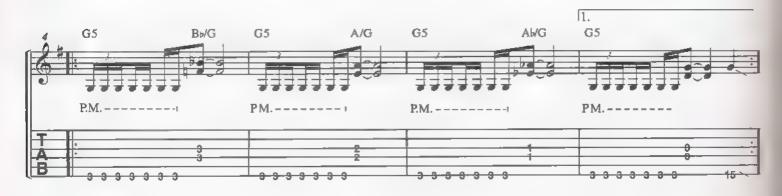


PSYCHO HOLIDAY

Words and Music by VINCENT PAUL ABBOTT, DARRELL LANCE ABBOTT, REX ROBERT BROWN and PHILIP HANSEN ANSELMO

Moderately $= 102 \ (\overrightarrow{\square} = \overrightarrow{\triangleright} \overrightarrow{\triangleright})$



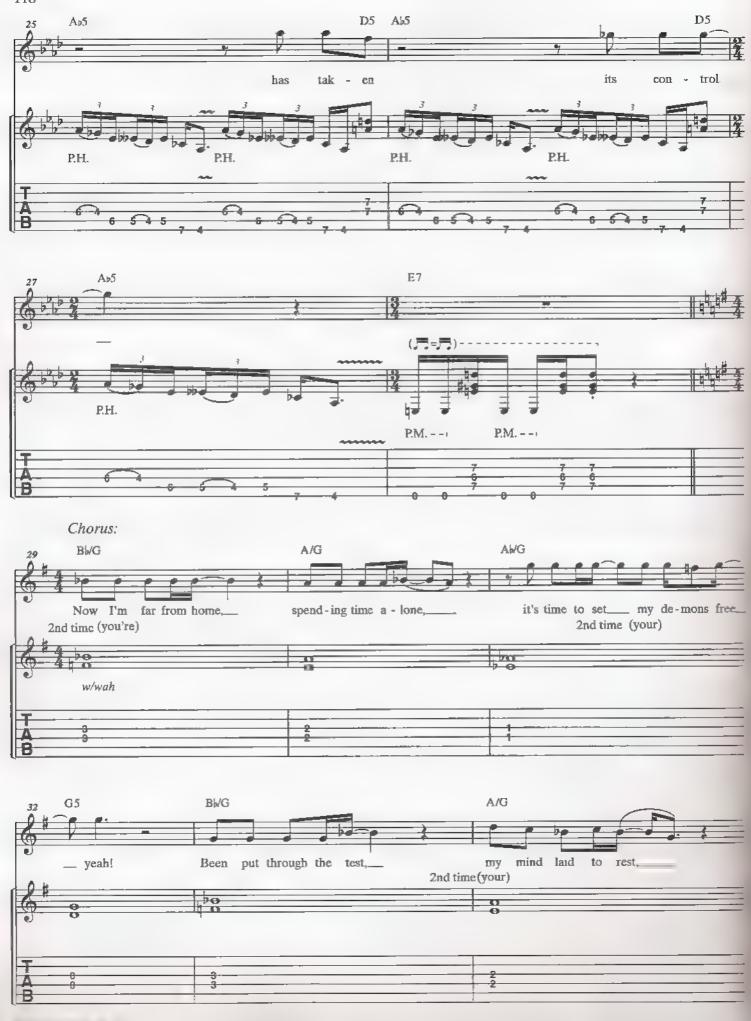


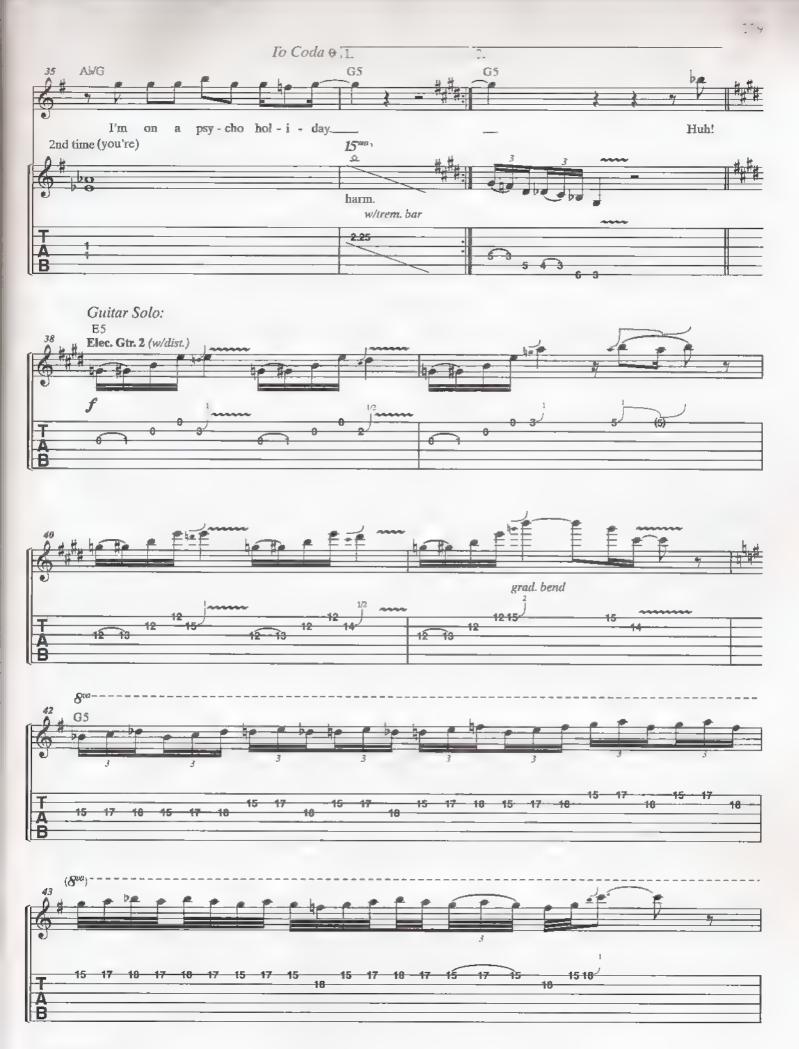


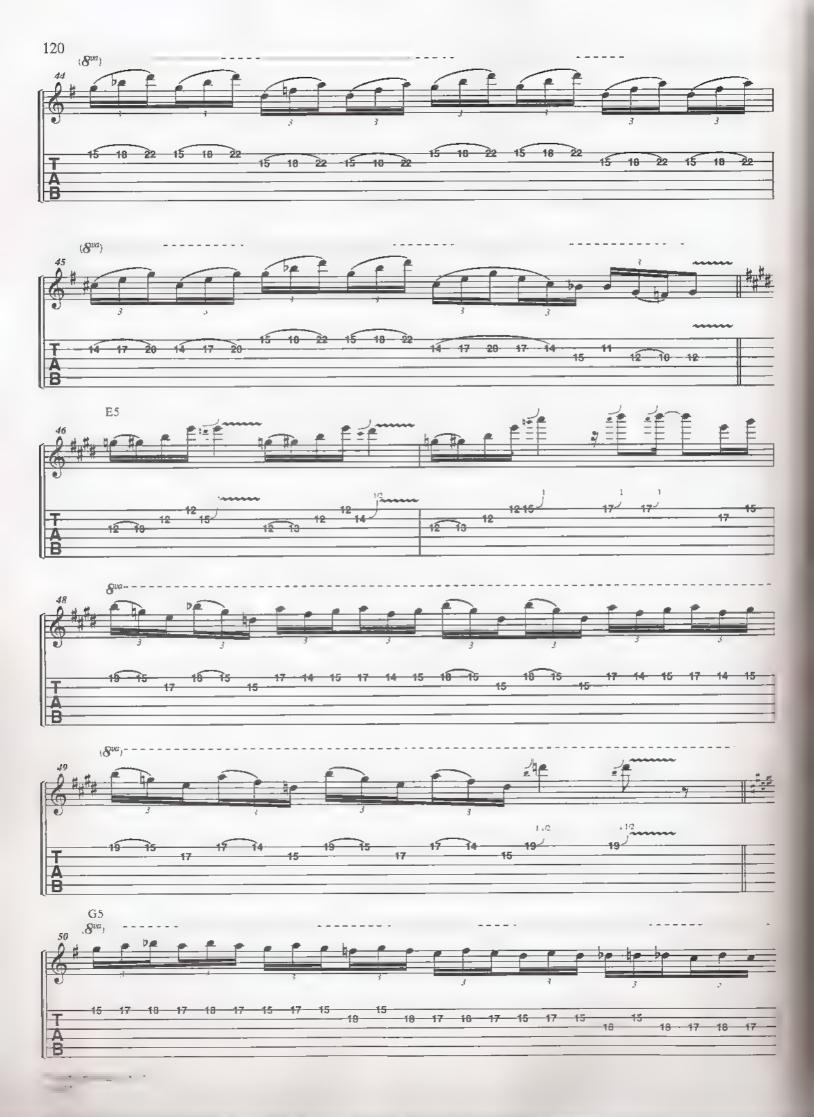
*Harmonic is played a little above the 2nd fret on the 3rd string. Vibrato is made w/trem bar













Psycho Holiday 8 6 25955





Verse 2:
Shot down on sight,
You are the target of attention.
One woman here, another there,
You can't please all the people all the time.
Can't tell the strangers
From the friends you know,
Frustration has taken its control.
(To Chorus:)

Verse 3:
I'm strapped in for life,
Is this where I lived
Or where I died?
You want my money, you take my space,
My mind is telling me to leave this place.
My self insanity has taken its toll,
Frustration has taken its control.
(To Chorus:)

THE SLEEP





The Sleep - 15 2 25955

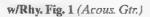
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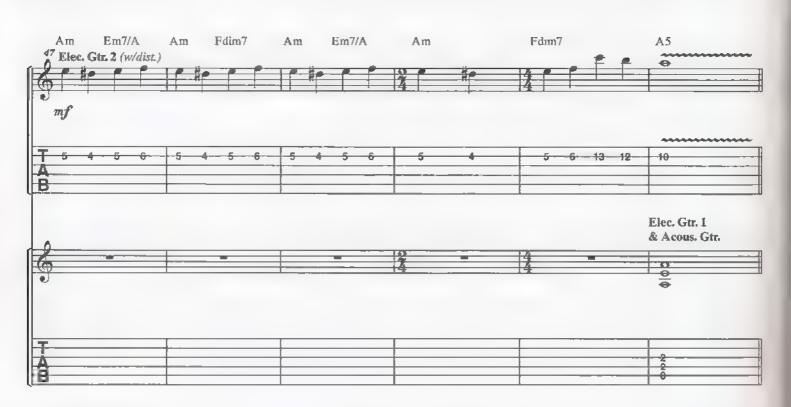


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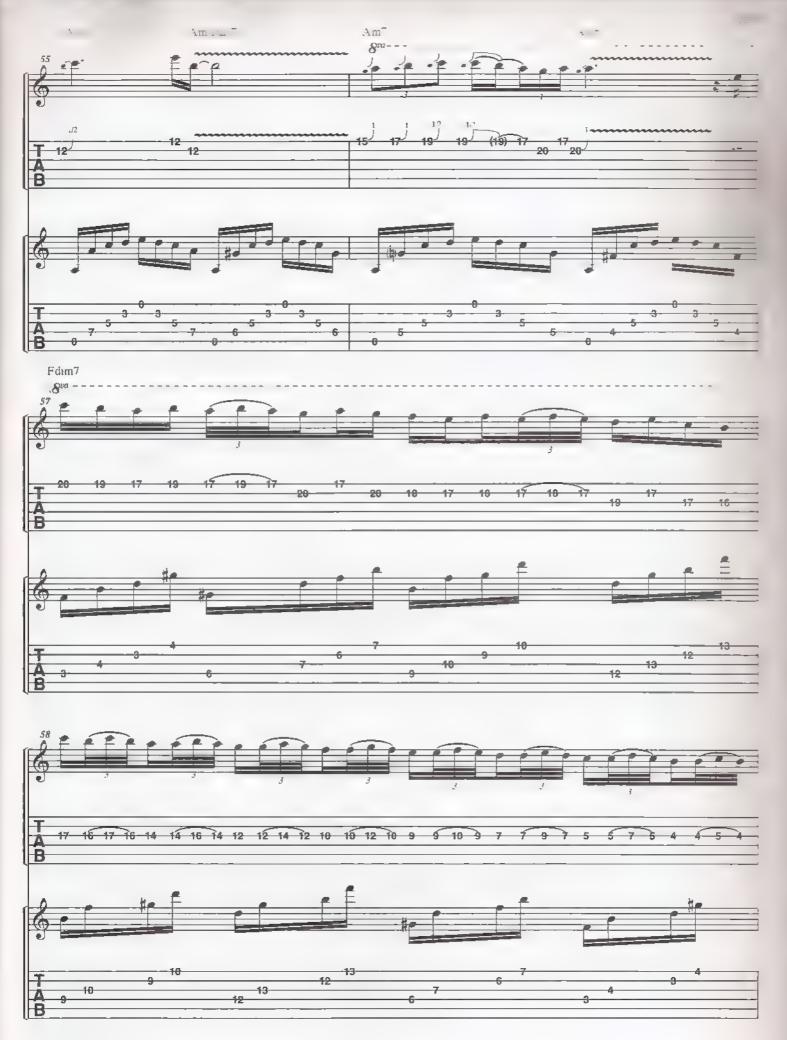




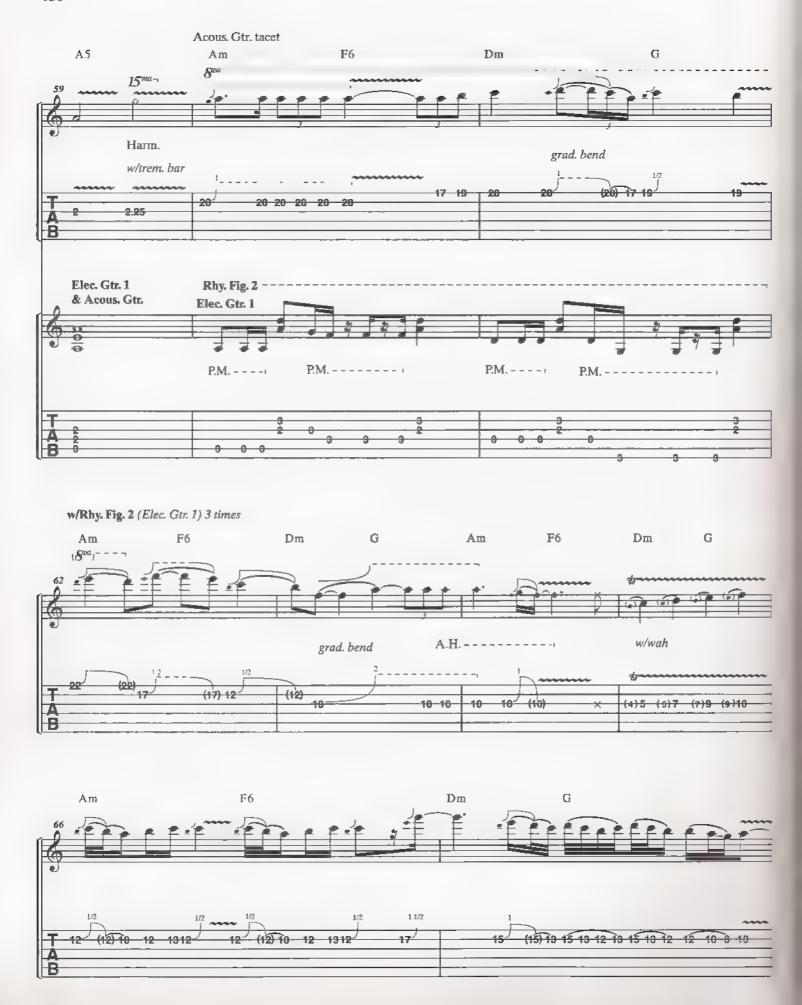


Guitar Solo:





Tanuar no





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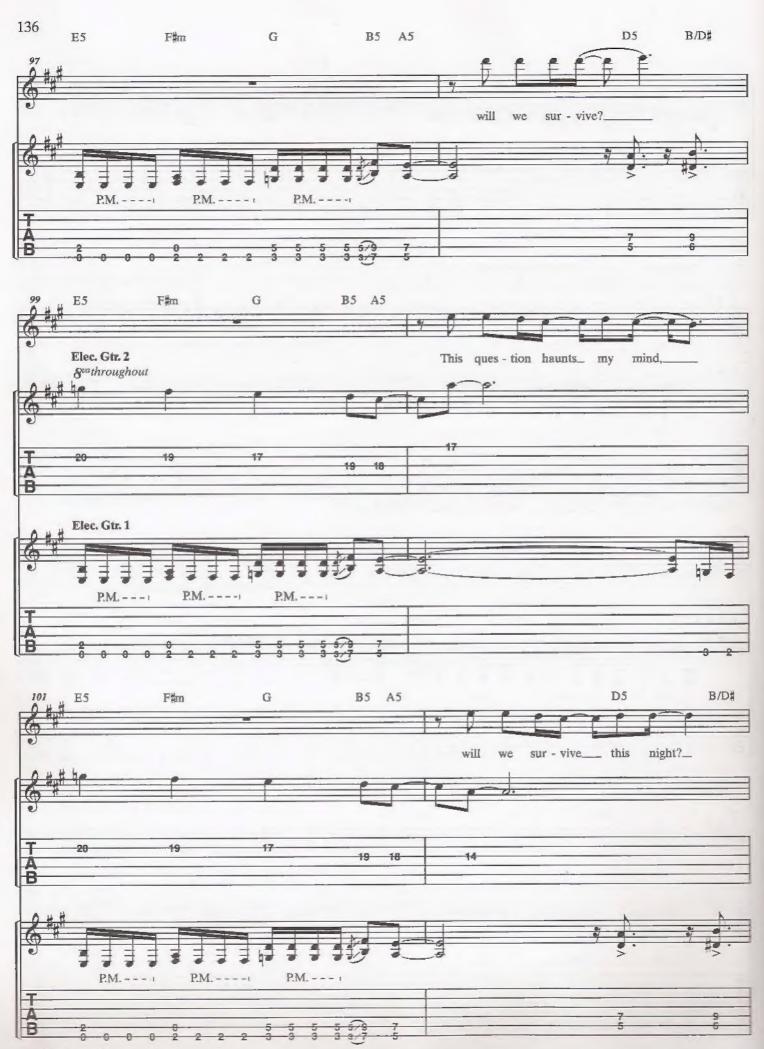
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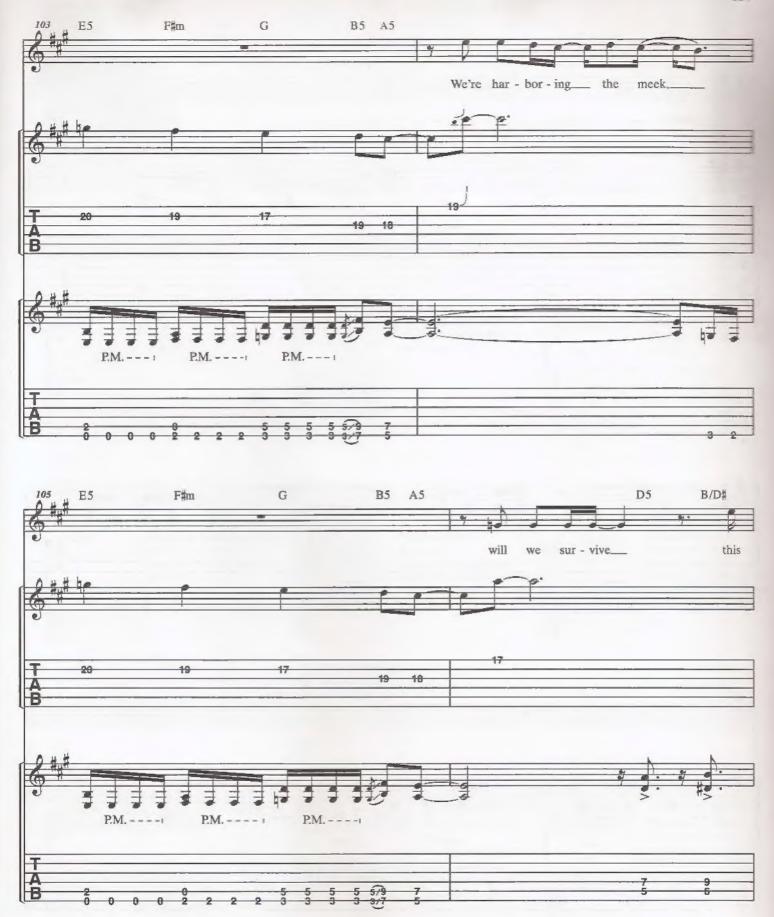




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